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## Thursday



Lee Myung-bak and his wife cheer his victory.

**Landslide Win:** 'Bulldozer' elected S. Korea's president | **7**

**Huckabee Rises:** Post poll shows a new leader in Iowa | **4**



**Return Trip:**  
Smoot faces old team in game vs. Vikings | **12**

## Weekend Pass

**Vision Quest:**  
'Spamalot' gallops into National Theatre to the sound of coconuts.

**>> INSIDE**



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

## Fire Damages Old Executive Building

**UNDER CONTROL:** A law enforcement official stands on the White House grounds in Washington on Wednesday as smoke pours out of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. A morning fire damaged Vice President Dick Cheney's ceremonial office before D.C. firefighters were able to control the blaze within half an hour. **Smoked out:** More than 1,000 evacuated during blaze | **Page 11**

## Congress Votes to Delay Tax

20 million families spared extra \$2,000 tax hit in 2008

**WASHINGTON** | More than 20 million families will be spared an extra \$2,000 tax hit on average after Congress excluded them from a higher alternative tax originally aimed at untaxed multimillionaires.

An eleventh-hour vote on Wednesday to put a one-year freeze on growth of the alternative minimum tax shields many middle- and upper-middle income taxpayers from first exposure to the tax. In 2006 it affected 4 million. President Bush plans to sign the bill into law.

But by waiting until the last day of the session, less than a week before Christmas, Congress left in question whether the Internal Revenue Service can adjust its forms in time for the 2008 filing season to begin in mid-January. Delays in processing returns could put off refunds to millions of people needing the extra cash for holiday expenses.

IRS acting commissioner Linda Stiff said the agency would immediately begin reprogramming forms, a process the IRS has said could take about seven weeks. "Our people will do everything they can to quickly update our systems for this major change," she said.

The independent IRS Oversight Board, in a report on the possible consequences of a delay, predicted that a Feb. 4 start for the filing season would entail a delay in issuing about 13.3 million refunds worth \$39 billion. **JIM ABRAMS (AP)**

**War funding:** Congress approves \$70 billion in spending for the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan | **Page 3**



WAS VLADIMIR PUTIN THE RIGHT CHOICE TO BE TIME MAGAZINE'S PERSON OF THE YEAR? **A YES B NO**



THURSDAY  
**46/30**



FRIDAY  
**45/34**



SATURDAY  
**49/40**

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**TODAY:** Partly sunny day with a slight breeze. Still relatively chilly | **26**

# eyeOpeners

## TEASING

### Here in the U.S., He'd Just Get Called 'TGIF'

What's in a name? If the name is "Friday," shame and ridicule, according to Italian judges who forbade a couple from naming their child after the character in "Robinson Crusoe." "They thought that it recalled the figure of a savage, thus creating a sense of inferiority and failing to guarantee the boy the necessary decorum," said the couple's lawyer. Since city hall officials are obliged by law to report odd names, the matter ended up before judges. The judges wrote that naming somebody Friday would bar him from "serene interpersonal relationships" and would turn the boy into the "laughingstock of his group." (AP)



## HISTORY

### The Great Memory Massacre of 2007

A business group and New York City's sanitation department are inviting folks to shred their bad memories of 2007. Everything from photos of ex-lovers to lousy report cards will be fair game

when shredders are set up in the Times Square Visitors Center for an hour on Dec. 28. Recycling bins will be available for items that can't be shredded. Stationery will be provided on which to jot down undesirable memories. A grand prize of \$250 will be awarded to the person deemed to be most creative in letting go of old baggage. (AP)

MARY ALTAFFER/AP



## WEDDINGS

### You May Squeeze The Bride

Jennifer Cannon and Doy Nichols of Lexington, Ky., took the plunge Wednesday in a public restroom in Times Square — and the bride's gown was fashioned from glue, tape and Charmin Ultra Soft and Extra Strong toilet tissue. The dress was designed by Hanah Kim, winner of Cheap-Chic-Weddings.com's 2007 Toilet Paper Wedding Dress Contest. (AP)

## IMAGERY

### 'Whale in Headlights' Is Amusing to Picture

A new study suggests that the missing evolutionary link between whales and

land animals is a raccoon-size creature that looks like a long-tailed deer without antlers. The creature is called Indohyus, and fossils reveal crucial similarities between it and water-dwelling cetaceans, such as whales, dolphins

and porpoises. For years, the hippo has been the leading candidate for the closest land relative. The key finding connecting Indohyus to the whale is its thickened ear bone, something only seen in cetaceans. (AP)

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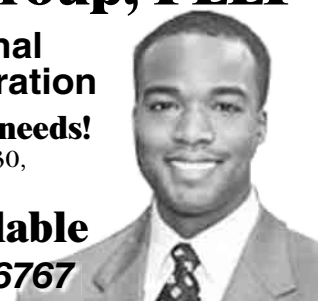
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**PILLOW FRIGHT:** A woman in Michigan who was angry because her husband wanted her to turn up the heat allegedly pulled out a gun and shot their flat-screen TV while he covered behind a pillow, authorities said on Wednesday.

## Nation

### In Brief

#### MIAMI

#### Suspects in Taylor Death Plead Not Guilty to Charges

Four suspects accused in the killing of Redskins Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor have filed written not guilty pleas to first-degree felony murder and armed burglary charges. The four suspects from the Fort Myers area are charged with breaking into Taylor's Miami home Nov. 26 and shooting him during a confrontation in his bedroom. (AP)

#### WASHINGTON

#### President Bush Signs Bill To Raise Fuel Standards

President Bush signed into law Wednesday legislation that will bring more fuel-efficient vehicles into showrooms and require wider use of ethanol, calling it "a major step" toward energy independence. Bush said the new requirements will help "address our vulnerabilities and dependency" on foreign oil by reducing demand for gasoline and diversifying the nation's fuel supply. (AP)

#### HEARSAY | POLITICS

"That's \$500 less that this guy has to do, whatever it is that he does [with his money]."

—JESSE BENTON, SPOKESMAN FOR PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL RON PAUL. BENTON SAID PAUL PLANS TO KEEP THE CAMPAIGN DONATION FROM A WHITE SUPREMACIST LEADER.

# Congress OKs \$70 Billion for Wars

## Democrats fail to alter president's policies in year-end budget deal

WASHINGTON | Congress approved \$70 billion Wednesday for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, a bitter finish for majority Democrats who tried to force a change in President Bush's war policy.

The House's 272-142 vote also sent the president a \$555 billion catchall spending bill that combines the war money with money

#### IN THE BUDGET

→ The spending legislation affects virtually every part of the government other than the Defense Department's core programs. It would pay for food and toy safety inspections, NASA, the FBI, the Coast Guard, education and national park operations.  
→ The bill would raise the pay of federal civilian workers by 3.5 percent and eliminate funds for a next-generation nuke.

for 14 Cabinet departments.

Bush and his Senate GOP allies forced the Iraq money upon anti-war Democrats as the price for permitting the year-end budget deal to pass and be signed. But other Democrats were eager to avoid being seen as not supporting troops who are in harm's way — and avoid weeks of bashing by Bush for failing to provide that money.

"This is a blank check," complained Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "The new money in this bill represents one cave-in too many. It

is an endorsement of George Bush's policy of endless war."

The vote reflected the reluctance by each party to deny money to troops in the field. At the same time, anti-war Democrats had found their position weakened by the decline in violence in Iraq.

For Democrats, just finishing the budget ended up as the driving goal. They wanted to avoid the humiliation of failing to enact the spending bills after criticizing then-majority Republicans for not doing so last year. ANDREW TAYLOR (AP)

#### BOSTON | ANOTHER ENDORSEMENT



**KISSINGER'S CHOICE:** Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain, left, R-Ariz., speaks to reporters after being endorsed by former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, right. McCain garnered momentum for his campaign this week with several key endorsements from newspapers in Iowa and New Hampshire, and from Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn.

## Family Missing On Tree Farm Is Found Alive

PARADISE, CALIF. | A father and three children who vanished on a Christmas tree-cutting trip in the Northern California mountains were found alive Wednesday after huddling in a culvert for warmth during three days of heavy snow.

A California Highway Patrol helicopter crew spotted Dominguez atop a small bridge and landed nearby, sinking into 2 feet of snow, flight officer David White said. The family had taken shelter in a culvert beneath the bridge and stomped "help" in the snow, White said.

"With another storm coming in, they were just happy to get out of there and get home," he said. (AP)



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# Nation



**EXPOSED:** A surgeon in Phoenix, Ariz., is facing a disciplinary hearing for snapping a photo of a man's tattooed genitals during an operation and showing it to other doctors. Mayo Clinic Hospital administrators said Dr. Adam Hansen admitted to taking the photo with his cellphone.

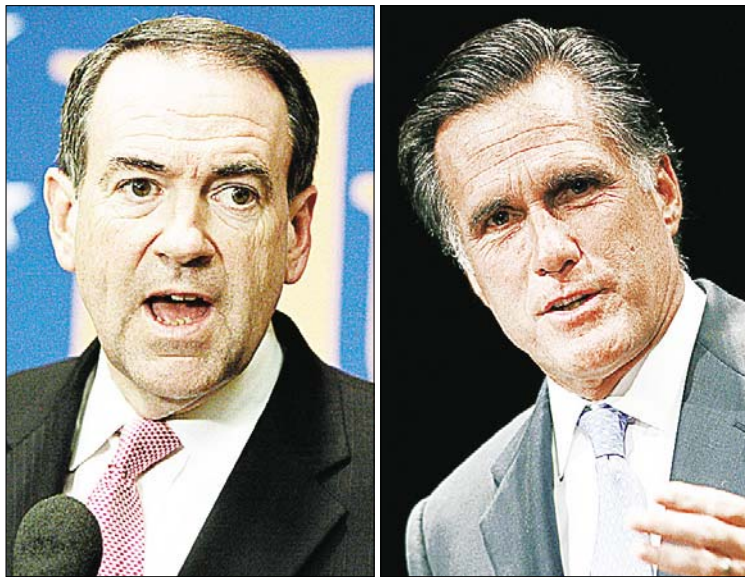
## Poll: Huckabee Takes Lead in Iowa

### Immigration emerges as top issue for state's Republican voters

**CAUCUS** | The race for Iowa's Republican caucuses has narrowed to a two-person battle between former governors Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney, with Huckabee now perched atop the field, propelled by a big jump in support among religious women.

The findings, from a new Washington Post-ABC News poll, show how dramatically the wide-open GOP contest has changed over the past few months. Huckabee's support in Iowa has quadrupled since the summer, while former New York mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and former senator Fred Thompson have lost ground.

Immigration now stands as the top issue for the state's GOP voters. Many Republicans believe voter anger over illegal immigration will be a flash-point not only in the race for their party's presidential nomi-



Support from women has propelled Mike Huckabee ahead of Mitt Romney in Iowa.

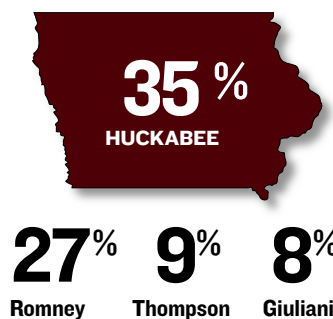
nation, but also in the general election. The emergence of immigration as a major issue in Iowa, where three in 10 GOP voters call it a top concern, creates an early test of its political potency.

Overall, with two weeks to go before the first-in-the-nation cau-

cuses, Huckabee wins the support of 35 percent of likely Republican caucus-goers, just above Romney, the longtime Iowa front-runner, who takes 27 percent. For the first time in Post-ABC Iowa polling, no other candidate registered in double-digits.

### THE POLLS | IOWA

→ Washington Post-ABC poll of 501 Iowa adults



Republican women, particularly those who describe themselves as evangelicals, are the primary driver behind Huckabee's recent increases, as a gender gap has opened up on the GOP side. Women now support Huckabee over Romney by an 18-point margin. JON COHEN AND CHRIS CILLIZZA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

**Complete coverage:** The Post-ABC Iowa poll breaks down the Republican race | **Today's Post, Page A1**

## Man Suspected In Student Death Found in Mexico

**EL DORADO, KAN.** | A man suspected in the slaying of a college student who led a secret life as an Internet porn performer was arrested Wednesday in Mexico, authorities said.

Israel Mireles, 24, was arrested on a Butler County homicide warrant in Melchor Muzquiz, Mexico, southwest of Texas. He was being held there pending extradition, U.S. Deputy Marshal Logan Kline said.



Mireles

Mireles became the focus of the investigation after police found large quantities of blood in an El Dorado motel room where he had been staying. Authorities said a bedspread that was missing from that room was found close to the body of Emily Sander, 18.

Police say Sander's Internet activity had no connection to her disappearance. (AP)

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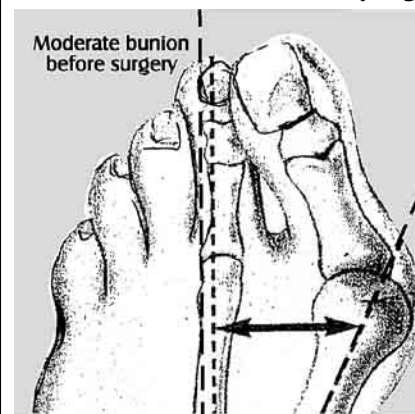
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# Nation



**LAUGHING MATTER:** A judge in Des Moines, Iowa, has sided with a man who was fired from a casino for posting on an office bulletin board a "Dilbert" comic strip that made fun of managers. The judge ruled it was "a good-faith error in judgment," not intentional misbehavior.

## Government to Limit N.Y.C. Flights

Bush administration hopes cap during busy hours will ease delays

WASHINGTON | After an awful year of nationwide flight delays, the Bush administration on Wednesday made an early New Year's resolution: Fix the problem where it usually starts, by placing new limits on the crowded skies and runways of New York City.

Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced the changes at an air traffic command center in Virginia after months of closed-door wrangling with the airlines over how to curb air traffic around the New York City area's three major airports: John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey.



The number of flights arriving at Newark International Airport in N.J. will be capped.

Peters said she had no choice but to cap the number of planes at the busiest hours.

"I had hoped to be able to avoid caps, but, the truth is, for the short

term, for the next few years, this is the solution that will provide some relief for travelers," Peters said.

Officials said they hope to ease the impact of the changes by shift-

**“For the short term ... this ... will provide some relief for travelers.”**

MARY PETERS, TRANSPORTATION SEC.

ing more flights to off-peak, midday hours and expected the number of daily flights in the area to rise.

Under new rules that take effect in March, JFK will be allowed only 82 or 83 flights per hour at the peak times, down significantly from the 90 to 100 that had been scheduled this past summer. Similar caps will go into effect at Newark. LaGuardia already has limits on flights.

DEVLIN BARRETT (AP)

## Perry Kucinich Found Dead in His Ohio Home

CLEVELAND | The youngest brother of Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich was found dead at his home Wednesday.

Perry Kucinich, 52, was found facedown by another brother, Larry, at about 9 a.m., according to Powell Caesar, a spokesman for the Cuyahoga County Coroner's office.

There were no signs of foul play, Caesar said. An autopsy was being performed Wednesday.

Dennis Kucinich took a flight from Washington to Cleveland after learning of the death and was not immediately available for comment, said his office press secretary, Natalie Laber. "He was very close to Perry, and he's taking this very hard," Laber said. (AP)

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**The number, in millions,** of letters that postal workers will receive addressed to "North Pole" this year, according to the U.N. agency that connects national post offices. In at least 20 countries, postal workers collect and respond to those letters, the U.N. said Tuesday.

# World

## In Brief



French officials survey the damage from a train collision on Wednesday.

### LYON, FRANCE

#### High-Speed Train Collides With Truck; 1 Dead, 35 Hurt

A high-speed train slammed into a truck in eastern France on Wednesday, killing the truck driver and slightly injuring 35 others on the train, officials said. The truck was stopped on the rails at a crossing near the town of Tossiat, in the Ain region of eastern France, when it was hit by the TGV train that was heading from Paris to Geneva, Switzerland, the regional prefecture said. (AP)

### BAGHDAD, IRAQ

#### Iranian Detained by U.S. in Northern Iraq is Released

An Iranian detained in northern Iraq more than three years ago has been released by U.S. authorities, Iran's ambassador said Wednesday. Ambassador Hassan Kazemi Qomi said that Hadir Alawi, who was detained in northern Iraq in June 2004, was released Tuesday. Qomi said about 20 Iranians remain in U.S. custody in Iraq. U.S. Navy Capt. Vic Beck, spokesman for multinational forces in Iraq, said the man, Sayed Hadir Alawi Mohammed, was released into "government of Iraq custody" Tuesday. (AP)



Newly elected South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and his wife, Kim Soon-ok, face photographers in Seoul Wednesday.

## Lee Wins S. Korean Vote

### Former Hyundai CEO is elected president in a landslide victory

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | A former Hyundai CEO known as "The Bulldozer" for his determination to get things done rolled over all opposition and financial fraud allegations to win South Korea's presidency Wednesday, ending a decade of liberal rule.

Lee Myung-bak, who turned 66

on election day and has also served as the mayor of Seoul, earned the landslide victory on a wave of discontent with incumbent President Roh Moo-hyun, whom many believe bungled the economy and dragged down the country's rapid growth.

The rise to power of Lee's conservative Grand National Party was expected to herald closer ties with the U.S. and a more critical view of relations with communist North Korea.

The National Election Commis-

sion said Lee had 48.7 percent of the vote after all ballots were counted. Liberal Chung Dong-young was a distant second with 26.2 percent.

It was the biggest margin of victory in any South Korean presidential election. Turnout was a record low 63 percent of 37.7 million eligible voters.

South Koreans apparently wanted change so badly that they were willing to overlook accusations of ethical lapses that dogged Lee in his campaign. BURT HERMAN (AP)

## U.S. Pressures Japan to End Humpback Whale Hunt

TOKYO | The United States is pushing Japan to suspend its hunt of humpback whales, and the American ambassador to Tokyo said Wednesday an agreement to stop it may have already been reached.

Japan dispatched its whaling

fleet last month to the Southern Pacific in the first major hunt of humpbacks since the 1960s. Commercial humpback hunts have been banned worldwide since 1966.

Word of a possible delay in the hunt came as the Australian gov-

ernment said it would send planes and a ship to conduct surveillance of Japanese whaling ships off Antarctica.

A Japan official acknowledged that Tokyo could be considering changes to its whaling program. (AP)

## U.N. Talks Stall Over Kosovo

### Serbian, Kosovar leaders refuse to agree on future of province

UNITED NATIONS | Hopes dimmed for an agreement from the U.N. Security Council over the future of Kosovo, with Western diplomats saying negotiations were deadlocked Wednesday and talks would continue in European capitals.

The council's 15 members met behind closed doors to hear from Vojislav Kostunica, the Serbian prime minister, and Fatmir Sejdiu, the president of Kosovo.

Kostunica insisted that Kosovo, a province of Serbia that is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, should remain part of its territory. Sejdiu laid out the Kosovars' demands for quickly gaining independence, a move that would be backed by the United States and key European nations.

Kostunica said the country will not recognize any declaration of independence by Kosovo.

British Ambassador John Sauer said afterward that the current situation in Kosovo is "unsustainable." JOHN HEILPRIN (AP)

## HEARSAY | HEALTH

### "We are pleading for these patients to come back to the hospital."

—SIYANDA MANANA, A HEALTH DEPT. SPOKESMAN IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE 23 TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS ARE AT LARGE.

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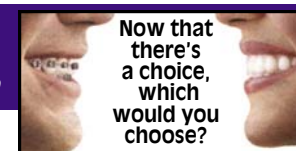
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## World



**PROPS FOR PUTIN:** Russian President Vladimir Putin has been named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" for the "extraordinary feat of leadership in taking a country that was in chaos and bringing it stability," Time's managing editor Richard Stengel said Wednesday.

# Baghdad Sunnis Mark Start of Eid

Thousands observe start of 4-day holiday amid safer atmosphere

BAGHDAD | Sunni Muslims marked the beginning of the Eid al-Adha holiday Wednesday, with thousands of worshippers gathering in mosques around Baghdad in an atmosphere of optimism after months of declining violence.

More than 10,000 came to the Abu Hanifa mosque in the Sunni-dominated neighborhood of Azamiyah at sunrise to perform the first prayers for the four-day holi-



An Iraqi woman prays at the al-Adamiyah cemetery in Baghdad on Wednesday. Thousands of Sunni Muslims marked the start of Eid al-Adha in a safer Iraq.

day. Locals said they felt safer during the Eid this year, but security was still increased at mosques and other holy sites.

After prayers, long lines spilled onto the sidewalks for the traditional Eid breakfast of sweet bread with cream.

Eid al-Adha is a holy celebration for Muslims, commemorating the prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for God. Sunnis and Shiites — who both celebrate the day — often announce it on different days, reflecting tensions between the two sects. Iraqi Shiites will mark Eid on Friday. HAMID AHMED (AP)

## Al-Qaeda's No. 2 Accepts Queries

CAIRO, EGYPT | Al-Qaeda has invited journalists to send questions to its No. 2 figure, Ayman al-Zawahri, in the first such offer by the increasing-



al-Zawahri

ly media-savvy terror network to "interview" one of its leaders.

The advertisement, issued by the group's media arm, Al-Sahab, on an Islamic militant Web site, invites journalists to send written questions for al-Zawahri to the Web forums where Al-Sahab traditionally posts. (AP)

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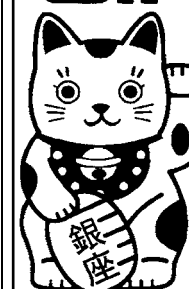
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**TUMMY TUCK EXCUSE?** A New Zealand-built motorboat that runs on biodiesel—and human fat—will attempt to break the world speed record for circumnavigating the globe next year, Agence France-Presse reported Wednesday. Skipper Pete Bethune and two volunteers underwent liposuction to produce 10 liters of fat that will be used to power the “Earthrace” boat.

## World

# Pakistan Train Derailment Kills 58

150 holiday travelers injured when 12 of 16 cars come off railway

MEHRABPUR, PAKISTAN | Plunged into darkness and chaos, Shahid Khan used the light from his cell phone to escape the wreckage of an express train that had been taking holiday travelers home.

It was 2 a.m., and what was left of the train, crowded with 900 people heading from Karachi to near Lahore in southern Pakistan, lay scattered about a waterlogged field, with cries from the trapped



Passengers and residents gather at the site of the derailment of an express train that killed at least 58 people and injured 150 near Mehrabpur, Pakistan, on Wednesday.

“[W]e felt the train sinking into the earth. There was chaos everywhere.”

SHAHID KHAN, TRAIN PASSENGER

and injured ringing out.

At least 58 people died and 150 more were injured when about 12 of the 16 cars came off the rails near Mehrabpur, about 250 miles north of Karachi.

“The train was going at full speed. Then there was a sudden jerk and we felt the train sinking into the earth. There was chaos everywhere,” said the 25-year-old Khan, sitting next to bundles of luggage he had salvaged. He had been traveling with six relatives.

It was unclear what caused the accident, which left hundreds of terrified passengers trying to claw their way out of the wreckage in total darkness.

Brig. Nazhar Jamil, the army officer in charge of the relief operation, said an initial inspection of the track found no sign of sabotage. He said excessive speed coupled with poor maintenance might have been to blame. The train had been full, but not overcrowded. ASHRAF KHAN (AP)



Mark Twain  
Author  
(1835-1910)



Harriet Tubman  
Abolitionist  
(c.1820-1913)



Kymone Freeman  
Vaccine Trial Participant  
(Present day)

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# Money



**NO DICE:** Microsoft Corp., Yahoo Inc. and Google Inc. have agreed to pay a combined \$31.5 million to settle federal civil allegations that they took ads for illegal gambling, the U.S. attorney for eastern Missouri said Wednesday.

## Market Action

### New York Stock Exchange

#### Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
NovaStr rs	3.41	+ .49	+16.8
FeldmnM lf	3.49	+ .50	+16.7
Fairchild	2.50	+ .29	+13.1
MacGry	11.86	+1.33	+12.6
HorizLns	18.67	+2.03	+12.2

#### Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Kngswy g	11.82	-3.34	-22.0
Darden	28.60	-7.74	-21.3
SLM Cp	22.89	-5.98	-20.7
Nautilus	5.76	-.81	-12.3
HovnanE	7.44	-.96	-11.4

### NASDAQ Stock Market

#### Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
DG FastCh	21.79	+3.48	+19.0
Faville	2.32	+ .37	+19.0
LeapWirless	42.04	+6.52	+18.4
PacEthn	9.15	+1.42	+18.4
Iomai	1.11	+ .02	+1.8

#### Losers

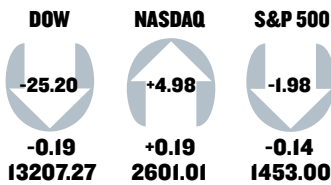
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
CostPlus	4.21	-1.15	-21.5
Macatawa	8.00	-1.78	-18.2
TecumsehB	17.95	-3.94	-18.0
ForcePro n	4.93	-.98	-16.6
TecumsehA	21.58	-3.90	-15.3

### Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	7.25	7.50
Fed Funds close	4.00	4.25
3-month disc	2.85	2.80
2-year	3.12	3.09
10-year	4.06	4.07
30-year	4.49	4.52

### Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5008	.4967	.5081
Canadian Dollar	1.0035	1.0054	1.1536
European Euro	.6954	.6940	.7580
Japanese Yen	113.35	113.31	118.08
Mexican Peso	10.8441	10.8467	10.8317
Taiwanese Dollar	32.51	32.51	32.76



### Bank Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
BcoSantand	20.70	-.03	+10.9
BkofAm	41.59	+.09	-22.1
BkMont g	55.94	+.43	-5.5
BkNova g	50.40	+.02	+12.5
CIBC g	70.60	-1.83	-16.2
Citigrp	30.21	-.17	-45.8
DeutschBk	125.63	-1.00	-5.7
JPMorgCh	43.98	+.08	-8.3
MitsuUFJ	9.15	+.05	-26.5
RoyalBk g	50.59	+.04	+6.2
TorDBk g	69.89	-.07	+18.4
UBS AG	45.48	-1.17	-24.6
US Bancrp	31.59	-.03	-12.7
Wachovia	38.99	-.70	-31.5
WellsFargo	30.62	+.30	-13.9

# China Buys Stake In Morgan Stanley

## Bank posts first loss after bad mortgage bets force writedown

NEW YORK | Morgan Stanley, the No. 2 U.S. investment bank, reported a \$9.4 billion writedown on Wednesday from bad bets on mortgage-related debt, leading it to take a \$5 billion infusion from an arm of the Chinese government.

The writedown, nearly triple what Morgan Stanley warned of in November, pushed the investment house to the first quarterly loss in its 73-year history. Chairman and CEO John Mack accepted blame for the fiscal fourth-quarter loss, and said he would forego his bonus, which last year topped \$40 million.

Morgan Stanley becomes the latest on Wall Street to be punished by the unfolding credit crisis — and to be forced to reach out to a foreign government to secure a



Morgan Stanley CEO John Mack accepted blame for the bank's loss.

major investment to shore up its books. Major global banks have lost \$100 billion in the past six months.

"The results are embarrassing for me and our firm," Mack said. "Ultimately, accountability for our results rests with me."

Similarly large writedowns have caused the ouster of Merrill Lynch CEO Stan O'Neal and Citigroup CEO Charles Prince. (AP)

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# 'Junk' Status of Bond Insurer Imperils Cities

## Local governments may take financial hit from S&P downgrade

NEW YORK | A major insurer of bonds was downgraded to "junk" status on Wednesday, a move that could potentially cost banks and local governments billions of dollars.

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's slashed its credit rating for bond insurer ACA Financial Guaranty Corp. to a non-investment grade of "CCC" from investment grade "A."

The downgrade of ACA led

S&P to cut ratings on nearly 3,000 municipal bonds, which could spark a municipal borrowing crisis, according to Peter Schiff, chief executive of Euro Pacific Capital.

"Many municipalities get high credit ratings because their bonds are insured," said Schiff. "Higher borrowing costs for cities will force them to charge higher property taxes, which will increase the strain on consumers. And some cities may be shut out of the credit markets."

The developments also imperil the already troubled market for securities that use mortgages as collateral. STEPHEN BERNARD (AP)



**BY THE NUMBERS:** U.S. homeowners increasingly failed to keep up with their mortgages in November, as the number of foreclosure filings surged 68 percent nationwide compared with the amount same month a year ago, according to mortgage research company RealtyTrac. In all, 201,950 foreclosure filings were reported last month, RealtyTrac said. (AP)





**THIRD EYELID BLIND:** The National Zoo's 10-year-old male giant panda, Tian Tian, is recovering from surgery to treat an inflamed eye. Veterinarians are using eyedrops and ointment to treat his third eyelid, which usually covers the eye when the outer lids are closed.

## Local

# Old Executive Building Catches Fire

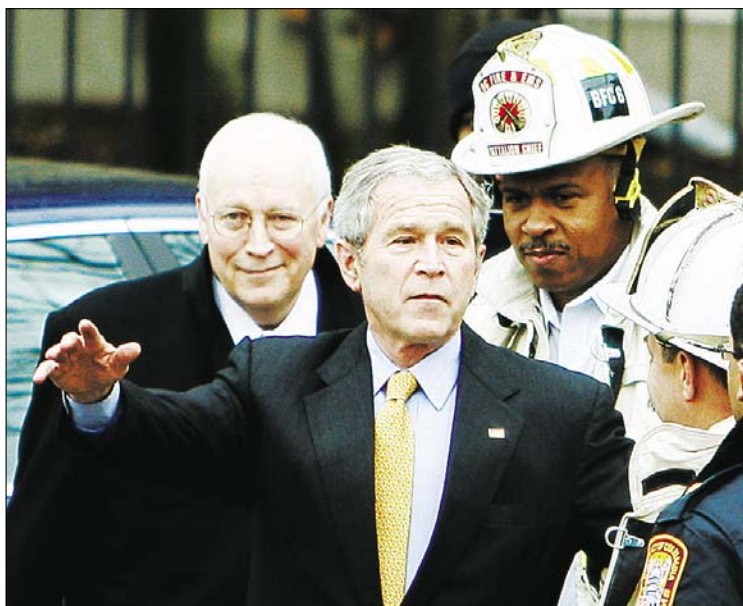
## Blaze at White House campus damages VP Cheney's office suite

WASHINGTON | Thick black smoke billowed from a fire Wednesday in Vice President Dick Cheney's suite of offices in the historic Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House.

Cheney's office was damaged by smoke and water from fire hoses, White House spokesman Scott Stanzel said.

The vice president was not in the building at the time; he was in the West Wing of the White House with President Bush.

More than 1,000 people who work in the building were evacuated. The fire broke out on the sec-



Vice President Dick Cheney and President Bush meet with firefighters in front of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building Wednesday after a fire in the building.

ond floor of the building at about 9:15 a.m. and was under control within a half-hour, District of Columbia fire department spokesman Alan Etter said.

Afterward, Bush and Cheney appeared on West Executive Avenue, between the White House and the damaged building, to thank D.C. firefighters.

A fire tanker nearby still had its ladder extended to a window on the blackened second floor.

The blaze was located in Cheney's suite of ceremonial offices. His working office is in the West Wing. Secret Service spokesman Darrin Blackford said the building was evacuated as a precaution.

Firefighters poured water on the blaze, broke windows and moved furniture onto a balcony. (AP)

## The Lotteries

### Wednesday, Dec. 19

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	1-7-9
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.)	1-2-3
Mid-day DC 4	9-3-9-8
Evening DC 4 (Tues.)	1-8-0-7
Rolling Cash Five (Tues.)	9-14-15-19-25
Daily 6 (Tues.)	2-14-17-23-36-38 Bonus: 6

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	4-3-3
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	5-8-5
Mid-day Pick 4	4-4-6-6
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	8-8-2-7
Match 5 (Tues.)	2-15-23-29-38 Bonus: 8

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-1-9
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	2-8-6
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.)	6-3-8-0
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	8-2-2-4
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.)	8-10-11-24-33
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	9-12-15-18-33

MULTI-STATE GAMES	
Mega Millions (Tues.)	3-23-46-48-49
Mega Ball	2

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office.

### HEARSAY | MD. VOTING

"This is a great day for all young voters in Maryland."

—MICHAEL CRYOR, CHAIRMAN OF THE MD. DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON THE STATE'S DECISION TO ALLOW 17-YEAR-OLDS TO VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES IF THEY WILL TURN 18 BY THE GENERAL ELECTION.

# District Finally Gets Its Own Quarter

## City earns state-like measure of respect, thanks to Puerto Rico

The District has no vote in Congress, its laws can be trampled by federal legislators, and even its streets can be closed by the feds on a moment's notice. But after a decade-long battle, D.C. finally won a new mark of respect this week.

It will have its very own quarter.

The measure, tucked into a

giant federal spending bill, puts the District on the same level as the 50 states — at least when it comes to the popular coins showcasing such home-state icons as mountains, birds, race cars and fiddles. The D.C. quarter is due in 2009, with a design yet to be determined.

"Can you believe it? How many years have I tried to get that?" exulted the city's congressional delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, who has repeatedly introduced bills to get the District a place on the quar-

ter's flip side.

Despite Norton's vigorous lobbying and arm-twisting, it was not the District's quest for equality that ultimately carried the day. It was Puerto Rico's.

Specifically, Rep. Jose E. Serrano, D-N.Y., inserted language into the spending bill to provide quarters for his native Puerto Rico, as well as the District, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

MARY BETH SHERIDAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

# Va. AG Supports Firearm Rights

RICHMOND, VA. | Attorney General Robert McDonnell plans to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that individuals have a constitutional right to own firearms.

McDonnell said Virginia will join other states in filing a brief in a legal challenge D.C.'s ban on personal handgun ownership. The court will hear arguments in March and likely will decide by June whether the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is an individual or collective right. (AP)

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## Sports

30

The number of games New York Islanders forward Chris Simon will miss due to a suspension after he stepped on Jarkko Ruutu's leg with his skate. It is the longest suspension in NHL history, beating his own 25-game suspension last year.

# A Return Trip Bigger Than Boats

## Redskins' Smoot heads back to Minnesota for a playoff-esque game

REDSKINS | Cornerback Fred Smoot left Minnesota in March under less than ideal circumstances and after a tumultuous two years with the Vikings, but is happy the focus this weekend will not be on him alone. The Washington Redskins and Vikings are battling for a playoff spot and Smoot's return to Minneapolis is now merely a subplot.

"I always thought this game was going to mean a lot more than just me going back to Minnesota," Smoot said. "I ain't got nothing to prove to the Minnesota Vikings, and I'm happy where I'm at, and I'm sure they're happy where they're at."

Smoot was drafted by Washington in 2001 but left as a free agent after the 2004 season. He was often injured with Minnesota, suffered losses in his personal life and was implicated in the "sex boat" scandal that rocked the franchise early in



Fred Smoot breaks up a pass intended for receiver Plaxico Burress during the Redskins' win over the Giants on Sunday night.

the 2005 season. Smoot joked that there are "three or four fans I might still have there," and figures he may get booed at bit at the Metrodome Sunday night.

Smoot, who says he remains close to several Vikings, like defensive backs Darren Sharper and Dwight Smith, concedes that this is not a normal game. "Any time you play against your old team, you're not going to wish

### Confident in Collins

→ Though Todd Collins' numbers weren't impressive in Sunday's win over the Giants, teammates and coaches praised his presence in the huddle. | **Today, Sports**

### IN The Washington Post

them the best," he said. Smoot has long maintained that his heart was always in Washington, however, and has played well but not spectacularly this season battling hamstring problems.

"He still has some room to improve," cornerbacks coach Jerry Gray said. "He's learning to complete like he did the first time he was here." JASON LA CANFORA (THE WASHINGTON POST)



Fans protest outside of Madison Square Garden with a pink slip for Isiah Thomas.

## Knicks Fans Give Isiah a Pink Slip

NBA | New York Knicks fans angry over the team's losing streak rallied outside Madison Square Garden on Wednesday, holding aloft a giant pink slip and calling on management to fire coach Isiah Thomas.

Chanting "Fire Isiah! He's got to go! Goodbye!" two dozen irate fans signed the 8-by-4-foot pink placard urging Garden chief executive James Dolan to dump the coach, whose team is 7-17 going into Wednesday night's game with Cleveland. (AP)

# Vikings Fight, One Cliche at a Time

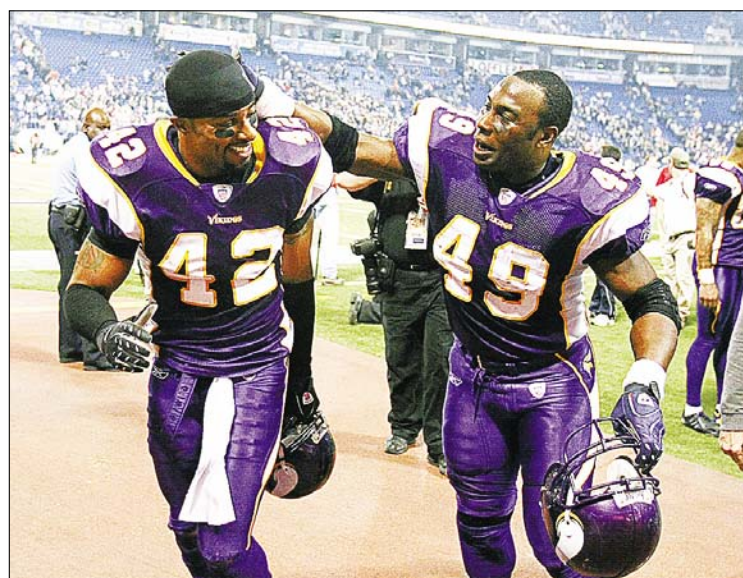
## Next game attitude has Minnesota on the verge of the playoffs

NFL | This, arguably, is the biggest cliché in sports: one game at a time. The Vikings don't care if this comes across as dull because their commitment — overstated or not — to such a focused approach is working.

Five straight victories have pushed the Vikings (8-6) close to a playoff appearance that was so improbable a few weeks ago. They're currently in control of the NFC's last wild-card spot.

Playoffs? That's right. Playoffs. "I didn't understand that last word," coach Brad Childress deadpanned in response to a related question after Monday night's win over Chicago.

Beating the fading defending conference champion Bears had as much to do with the injury-depleted and offense-starved opponent as it



Two Minnesota defenders celebrate after beating the Bears on Monday night.

did with Minnesota's own performance.

Yes, but it counted the same. "It's really been a day-at-a-time philosophy," Childress said. "I know that's trite, but that's really how

we've looked at it."

That began in earnest following the 34-0 defeat at Green Bay on Nov. 11, when the Vikings fell to 3-6. The ensuing victories have been equally pretty and ugly, sev-

eral of them at least partial functions of a slumping foe. That's how you go places in the NFL, though, by taking care of the teams that are clearly supposed to be beaten.

"We realize that we're a better football team than what showed up in Lambeau a month ago or so," guard Steve Hutchinson said after Monday's game. "Our motto from there on out was, 'Don't worry about the record. Don't worry about the rest of the season.'"

Minnesota can clinch a playoff spot with a win on Sunday over Washington and a loss or a tie by New Orleans, which hosts Philadelphia, but a defeat against Washington would put the Vikings in a difficult spot entering the final weekend. This is precisely why Childress has preached this one-at-a-time mentality.

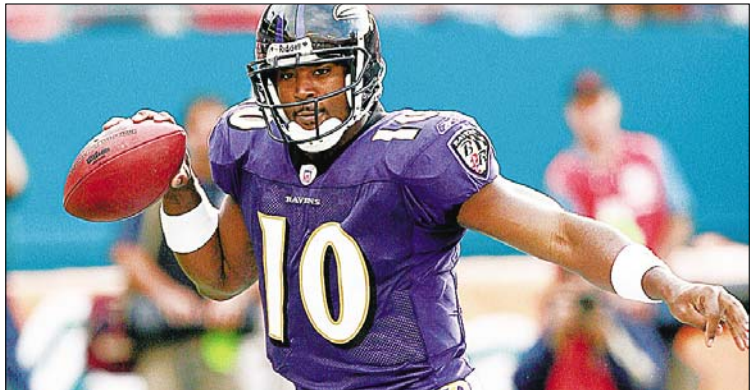
"Coach is always talking about hunting somebody and being hunted," wide receiver Bobby Wade said. "As of right now, we are the team being hunted. We have got to take that kind of approach and really focus." DAVE CAMPBELL (AP)



**ROCK, CHALK:** Kansas coach Mark Mangino won The Associated Press' top coaching honor on Wednesday, beating out Missouri's Gary Pinkel to win Coach of the Year. Mangino took 28 of the 58 votes. Pinkel got 11 votes, followed by Hawaii's June Jones (seven).



Sports



Ravens rookie QB Troy Smith took all the snaps with the first team on Wednesday.

Smith Preps for Start

Ravens could go with rookie QB if Boller can't practice Thursday

RAVENS | Rookie quarterback Troy Smith provided a much-needed spark for the Baltimore offense when Kyle Boller went down last week, nearly rallying the slumping Ravens to a victory over Miami.

With Boller still feeling the effects of a concussion that could keep him out this weekend against Seattle, the Heisman winner suddenly finds himself preparing to

make his first NFL start. "Confidence with me has never really been a problem because I don't have anything to prove," said Smith, who took all the snaps with the first-team offense Wednesday.

Boller was sent home following team meetings because he's still experiencing headaches and sensitivity to light after a violent hit during Sunday's 22-16 overtime loss.

"If it's still bothering [Boller] Thursday, I would probably go ahead and start Troy," Ravens coach Brian Billick said. "But we'll see how he feels Thursday." (AP)

Will the Real 'D' Stand Up?

Both Navy and Utah bring potent offenses to the Poinsettia Bowl

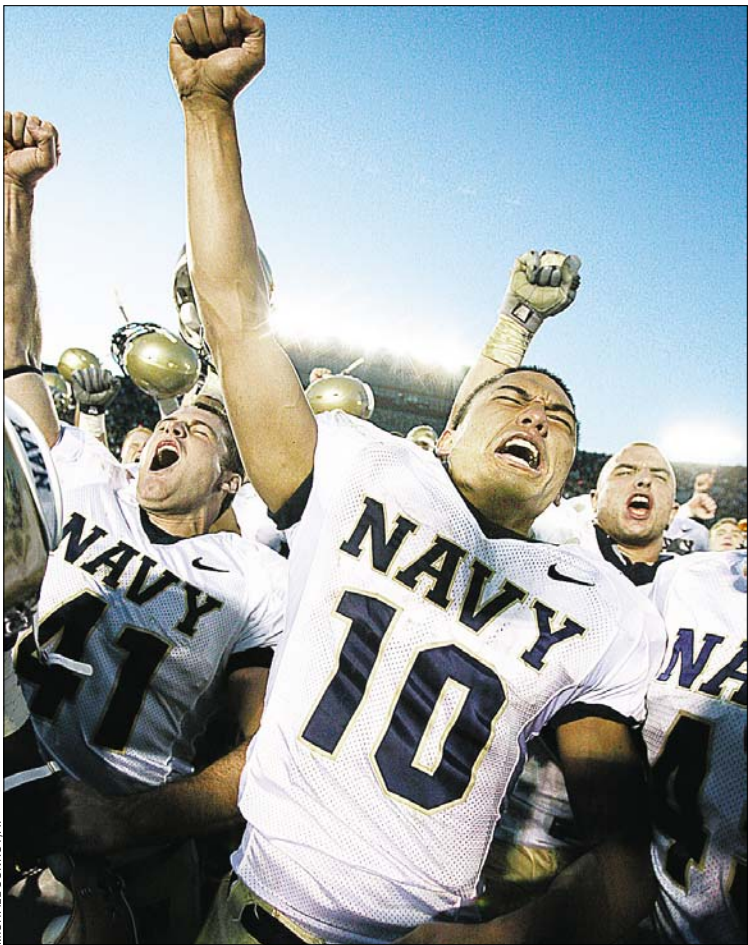
COLLEGE FOOTBALL | The Poinsettia Bowl between Navy and Utah on Thursday night could come down to whoever can play keep-away.

Already beaten once this year by a service academy and its perplexing offense, Utah knows it will have its hands full trying to stop Navy's potent triple-option that's run by a quarterback with double hyphens, Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada.

Ditto for Navy, which will try to stop Utah's spread option with a defense that came close to blowing out scoreboards around the country by allowing at least 30 points a whopping eight times this season.

In the span of three games, the Midshipmen lost 59-52 to Delaware, beat Notre Dame 46-44 in three overtimes — their first win against the Fighting Irish in 44 years — and won 74-62 at North Texas in the highest-scoring game in major-college history.

Utah is favored in the matchup of teams that finished 8-4. Navy's Ken Niumatalolo will be making his head coaching debut, having been promoted from assistant head coach and offensive line coach after Paul Johnson left for Georgia Tech.



Quarterback Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada leads a potent Navy triple-option attack.

"Navy's been involved in a lot of shootouts this year. Most of their games have been tremendous scores," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "The best way to defend their offense is to keep it

on the sideline, keep our offense moving the chains and not turn it over. The best defense against a team like this is to keep that option offense grounded on the sideline."

BERNIE WILSON (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (9 P.M. ON ESPN) Navy and Utah kick off the bowl season with the Poinsettia Bowl.

CAPITALS (7 P.M. ON COMCAST) The Caps

return home to host the Canadiens.

NFL (8 P.M. ON NFL) Thursday night football features the banged-up Steelers at the even-more-banged-up Rams.

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"Right now, Jessica Simpson is not a fan favorite — in this locker room or in Texas Stadium" — **Cowboys WR Terrell Owens** on Simpson's showing up to Sunday's game wearing a Tony Romo jersey, which many speculated correlated with Romo's poor performance.



## Sports

# Still Green, But Looking Like a Star

## Capitals defender draws praise for his offensive repertoire

**CAPITALS** | One might think that the last thing a young defenseman wants to hear is his goaltender admitting he's "gotta be on my toes" and his coach saying he "shook my head" watching the blue-liner play.

But, believe it or not, those are words of praise for Capitals defenseman Mike Green.

Now nearly halfway through his second full NHL season, Green is making his name as a player who finds comfort in contrast. He speaks in hushed tones and seems remarkably humble, yet he's a proud Ultimate Fighting fan who sported a mohawk as a minor leaguer. And he is paid to shut down the opponent's attack, yet boasts offensive skills that many NHL forwards would envy.

"He's a very exciting, electric player. He takes some high-risk chances, but more times than not he makes some unbelievable plays," goalie Olie Kolzig said.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIS/AP

Mike Green celebrates his game-winning goal against the Rangers last Wednesday.

Green, 22, got a taste of the NHL from 2005 through 2006, then spent all of last season solidi-

fying his spot on the Caps' blue line. Recently, the Calgary native has blossomed, especially under coach

Bruce Boudreau. The pair worked together with the Caps' affiliate in Hershey, and Green said Boudreau's arrival last month "absolutely" has paid dividends.

"I know what's expected out of me from him, and there's definitely a little more range there," Green said.

The Caps (13-18-3) are three games above .500 under Boudreau, and Green has been a critical component. He has five goals and two assists in those 13 games, including the scintillating one-goal, two-assist effort in last week's win over the Rangers, the performance that so impressed his goalie and coach.

His eight goals are tied for tops among NHL defensemen heading into Thursday night's home game against Montreal. But it's not all offense — Green was a minus-8 under former coach Glen Hanlon and is a plus-4 since.

"He's going to be good. I have all the confidence in the world in him," Boudreau said. "And you know, there's no one that's a nicer kid than him, so I couldn't be happier." **BRIAN STRAUS**

## In Brief

### NFL Parcells Spurns Falcons for Rebuilding Effort in Miami

Bill Parcells' day began with reports he would rebuild the Atlanta Falcons. It ended with him on the cusp of taking the same job with the Miami Dolphins. Parcells and Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga agreed Wednesday on a four-year contract to be Miami's vice president of football operations, according to ESPN, which employs the Super Bowl-winning coach as an analyst. (AP)



Parcells

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL Osborne to Be AD Until 2010

Tom Osborne is Nebraska's athletic director. Chancellor Harvey Perlman announced Wednesday that the 70-year-old Osborne would remain athletic director until June 30, 2010. Ten years removed from his celebrated coaching career, Osborne returned to the university as interim athletic director Oct. 16, the day after Steve Pederson was fired. (AP)

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# Entertainment



**HE'S GENEROUS, TOO!** Turns out Denzel Washington is more than just a pretty face and a talented actor. School officials at Wiley College announced Tuesday that "The Great Debaters" star is donating \$1 million to the college to reestablish its debate team.

# Akon Locks it Down

## The R&B singer sits pretty at No. 1 on the Top Artists recap

**SMACK THAT** | Three years ago, he debuted on the charts with the single "Locked Up." This year, Akon locks up Billboard's top pop artist honor. The singer's "Konvicted" album (Konvict/Upfront/SRC/Universal Motown/UMRG), released in November 2006, may not have reached No. 1 on the Billboard 200, but its sturdy performance aided Akon's rise to the top of the pop heap. "Konvicted" spent its first 30 weeks lodged in the top 30 of the Billboard 200 after its bow at No. 2. While Akon ends the year at



**IN GOOD COMPANY:** Akon shares top honors with Justin Timberlake and Fergie.

No. 1 on the Top Artists recap, "Konvicted" ranks just behind Daughtry's self-titled album at the peak of the Top Billboard 200 tally.

Akon kept himself busy collaborating with a host of other artists, just like another male superstar: the No. 3 name on the Top Artists recap, Justin Timberlake. The Jive singer was, frankly, inescapable on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2007, notching numerous solo hits as well as smashes with the likes of Beyoncé, 50 Cent and Timbaland.

All told, Timberlake scores seven slots on the year-end Hot 100 Songs recap with his highest-ranking single coming in at No. 21: "Give It to Me" by Timbaland, which features Nelly Furtado and Timberlake.

In terms of sheer Hot 100 chart domination this year, the female equivalent of Timberlake would have to be Fergie. The will.i.am/A&M/Interscope artist finds herself at No. 2 on the Top Artists list and, of course, is the year's top female pop artist. Her "The Dutchess" album unleashed four hits, including the No. 1's "Glamorous" and "Big Girls Don't Cry." On the Billboard Hot 100 Songs year-end recap, she owns three of the top 20 singles.

It's a feat for one artist to place three singles on the year-end Hot 100 chart like Fergie. It's another ballgame entirely when you can snag four (Timbaland), six (Akon) or seven (Timberlake and T-Pain). All told, if we add up the number of singles those four men racked up on the Hot 100 Songs recap, they own a whopping 21 titles. (Right now, someone is cooking up the ultimate collaboration featuring all four; we can feel it.)

KEVIN CAULFIELD (BILLBOARD)



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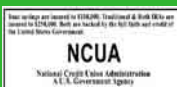
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**PIANO MAN:** Bacharach is responsible for jams like "That's What Friends Are For."

## Lifetime Awards for Performers

### Grammy honorees will include the Band and Burt Bacharach

**WINNERS** | Lifetime achievement Grammy Awards for 2008 will go to performers whose careers span more than seven decades and cross genres from big band and classical music to rock and country: Cab Cal-

loway, Itzhak Perlman, Burt Bacharach, the Band, Doris Day and Earl Scruggs.

In addition, the Recording Academy announced Tuesday that its Trustees Awards will go to Elektra and Nonesuch Records founder Jac Holzman, Memphis, Tenn.-based producer and songwriter Willie Mitchell and former Motown Records Chairman Clarence Avant. Technical Grammys will be awarded to Ampex Corp. for its innovations in audio and videotape recording, and to audio engineer John Eargle.

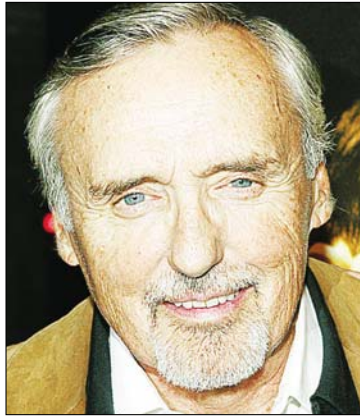
They'll be recognized when the 50th Grammy Awards are handed out Feb. 10. The ceremony will take place at Staples Center in Los Angeles and will be telecast on CBS.

RANDY LEWIS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



# Television

Addison's RSVP goes unanswered on



**PRIVATE PRACTICE** (10 p.m., ABC). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

The quest for \$1.5 million continues on "Duel" (8 p.m., ABC). And Wayne Brady exhorts his players "Don't Forget the Lyrics" (9 p.m., Fox). Jeff Foxworthy's "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?" (8 p.m., Fox) has added little to the popular culture. Unless, of course, you were surprised to learn that "American Idol" star Kellie Pickler was unaware (it would be impolite to use the word "ignorant") of the existence of Hungary and thought Europe was a country. KEVIN MCDONOUGH

12.20.07		6:00 PM		6:30		7:00		7:30		8:00		8:30		9:00		9:30		10:00		10:30		11:00		11:30	
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC	4	News (N)			NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Clash of the Choirs (Season Finale)						My Name Is Earl		30 Rock	The Office "Fun Run"		News (N)		News (N)		Tonight Show		
	WTTG	5	News (N)	TMZ (N)		The Simpsons	Seinfeld	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?						Don't Forget the Lyrics! (N)		News (N)		News (N)		TMZ					
	WJLA	7	News (N)	ABC Wild News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Duel (N)		Grey's Anatomy "Let the Truth Sting"						(:02) Private Practice		News (N)		(:35) Nightline (N)					
	WUSA	9	News (N)	Evening News		News	Entertainment	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation						CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		Without a Trace "Desert Springs"		News (N)		Late Show					
	WDCA	20	Judge Judy (N)	Judge Joe Brown	King of Queens	King of Queens	★★★ "Big" (1988, Fantasy) Tom Hanks, Elizabeth Perkins.						Every-Raymond		King of the Hill	Law & Order: Criminal Intent									
	WMPT	22	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Business Rpt.	Your Business	MotorWeek	This Old House		Happy Holidays Concert						Smitten		Xavier: Missionary & Saint							
	WETA	26	BBC World News		Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Art in the Twenty-First Century						Art in the Twenty-First Century		Art in the Twenty-First Century										
	WHUT	32	Tony Brown		Tavis Smiley	BBC World News	Moneywise	The Hope Givers						Frontline		BBC World News		Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)						
WDCW	50	My Wife and Kids		Family Guy	Two-Half Men	Friends	Smallville "Fierce"						Supernatural		Family Guy		Friends	Two/Half Men		Sex and the City					
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Cold Case Files "Finding BTK"				CSI: Miami "Innocent"				The First 48				The First 48				The First 48				Paranormal State		Paranormal State	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter Diaries				Wild Kingdom				Wild Kingdom "Polar Bear Alcatraz"				Wild Kingdom "Global Wolf" Wolves.				Animal Cops Detroit "Deserted Dogs"				Wild Kingdom			
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)				★★★ "Menace II Society" (1993, Drama) Tyrin Turner, Jada Pinkett.				Real Housewives				Real Housewives				Hell Date				Hell Date			
	Bravo	★★★ "Eddie Murphy Raw" (1987, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Tatyana Ali.				Real Housewives				Real Housewives				Real Housewives				Real Housewives							
	Comedy	"Bickford Schmeckler's Cool Ideas"				Scrubs	Scrubs	Daily Show		Colbert Report	★★★ "Napoleon Dynamite" (2004, Comedy) Jon Heder, Jon Gries.				Comicview				Daily Show		Colbert Report				
	Court	World's Wildest Police Videos				Cops	Cops	Bait Car		Bait Car	American Jail		American Jail	Forensic Files		Forensic Files	LA Forensics		Hollywood Justice						
	Discovery	How It's Made				How It's Made	Man vs. Wild "Jungle"	Last One Standing "Java" (N)		Last One Standing Canoe race.		MythBusters Landing an airplane.				Futureweapons "Guns" (N)									
	DISCH	Code Blue "Medicine and Miracles"				Trauma: Life in the ER				Little People, Big World First mission.		Little People, Big World				Little People, Big World First mission.									
	Disney	Hannah Montana	Hannah Montana	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	"Go Figure" (2005, Drama) Jordan Hinson.				That's So Raven		That's So Raven	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana										
	E!	Snoop Father	Chelsea Lately	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	Nicole Kidman: True Hollywood Story				Girl Next Door	The View: The E! True Hollywood Story "The View."				E! News		Chelsea Lately								
	FX	★★★ "Spawn" (1997, Fantasy) John Leguizamo, Michael Jai White.				★ "Godzilla" (1998) Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno, Maria Pitillo. A giant mutated lizard wreaks havoc in New York.				★ "Godzilla" (1998) Jean Reno															
	HGTV	Small Space	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed to Sell				Carver Can (N)	Divine Design (N)	Color Correction	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	Property Virgins	Over Your Head									
	Family	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Cat in the Hat	Lorax	★★★ "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000, Fantasy) Jim Carrey, Jeffrey Tambor.				★★★ "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000)															
	History	Mega Disasters "Methane Explosion"				Modern Marvels: Logging Tech				Modern Marvels: Christmas Tech				Gangland "Stone to the Bone" (N)				Ancient Discoveries "Machines III"		History in Focus	UFOs: Aliens				
	Lifetime	Reba	Reba "Switch"	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba	Reba				"The Christmas Shoes" (2002, Drama) Rob Lowe, Kimberly Williams.				Will & Grace		Will & Grace								
	MTV	Newport Harb.	True Life Long-lost fathers.	True Life Two young men enter rehab.	A Shot at Love With Tila Tequila				Run's House		Run's House (N)		Friday: Animat	Run's House	The Real World										
	NICK	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	iCarly "iNevel"	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob	Full House		Home Improve.		Home Improve.	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince										
SCI FI	Stargate SG-1 "Reckoning"				★ "Alone in the Dark" (2005, Horror) Christian Slater, Tara Reid.				"Showdown at Area 51" (2007) Jason London, Christa Campbell, Gigi Edgley.				"Code Red: Rubicon"												
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation				CSI: Crime Scene Investigation				CSI: Crime Scene Investigation				TNA iMPACT! (N)				MANswers		MANswers						
TBS	Friends	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends	Friends	★★★ "Monster-in-Law" (2005) Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda.				Sex and the City				Sex and the City										
TLC	Flip That House	Flip That House	SEMA: World's Greatest Car Show				Wrecks to Riches El Camino.				American Chopper				American Chopper										
TNT	Law & Order "Vaya Con Dios"				Law & Order "Amends"				NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Cleveland Cavaliers. (Live)				NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Denver Nuggets.												
USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent				Law & Order: Criminal Intent				Law & Order: Special Victims Unit				Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		House "Merry Little Christmas"										
VHI	I Love New York				Greatest Songs of the '90s				Greatest Songs of the '90s				Greatest Songs of the '90s				Larry the Cable Guy's Christmas								
SPAN	TELEM	Daniela	Noti-Telemndo	12 Corazones	Madre Luna				Victoria				Pecados Ajenos				Noti-Telemndo		Mas Vale Tarde						
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Yo Amo a Juan Querendón (N)	Amar sin Limites (N)				Pasión				Aquí y Ahora				Primer Impacto		Noticiero Univ.						
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)				College Basketball Aeropostale Classic -- Duke vs. Pittsburgh. (Live)				College Football San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl -- Navy vs. Utah. From San Diego. (Live)															
	ESPN2	(5:30) X-Fighters	Football Live	College Basketball: All-College Classic -- Oklahoma State vs. Oral Roberts				Gamenight		College Basketball: All-College Classic -- Gonzaga vs. Oklahoma				Varsity Inc. (N)											
	CSN	SportsNite	SportsNite	NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals. (Subject to Blackout) (S Live)				SportsNite		SportsNite		Washington Post Live													
NEWS	CNN	(4:00) The Situation Room				Lou Dobbs Tonight				Out in the Open				Larry King Live				Anderson Cooper 360							
	FNC	Special Report				The Fox Report With Shepard Smith				The O'Reilly Factor				Hannity & Colmes				On the Record-Van Susteren				The O'Reilly Factor			
	MSNBC	Tucker				Hardball				Countdown With Keith Olbermann				Live With Dan Abrams				Predator Raw: The Unseen Tapes				The Deadly Case of Mr. Hyde			
MOVIES	AMC	(5:00) ★★★ "Firefox" (1982, Action) Clint Eastwood, Freddie Jones. 'PG'				★★★ "Blazing Saddles" (1974, Comedy) Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder. 'R'				Mad Men "Nixon vs. Kennedy"				"National Lampoon's Animal House"											
	TCM	★★★ "Idiot's Delight" (1939, Comedy) Clark Gable. 'NR'				★★★ "Over 21" (1945, Comedy) Irene Dunne, Alexander Knox. 'NR'				★★★ "Theodora Goes Wild" (1936) Irene Dunne. 'NR'				The Awful Truth											
	HBO	★★★ "Prime" (2005, Romance-Comedy) Meryl Streep.  'PG-13'				★★★ "Die Hard" (1988, Action) Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman. 'R'				I Am Legend				The Wire Odyssey	Real Sex	PS I Love You									
	MAX	Night-Museum				(:35) ★★★ "Kuffs" (1992, Comedy) Christian Slater.  'PG-13'	"Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit"				★★★ "Little Children" (2006, Drama) Kate Winslet.  'R'														
	SHOW	Yours, Mine				(:45) ★★ "Kettle of Fish" (2006) Matthew Modine. iTV.  'R'	★★ "Strangers With Candy" (2005) Amy Sedaris. 'R'				Dexter "The British Invasion" (iTV)				".45" (2006) Milla Jovovich. iTV. 'R'										
	TMC	American Crime				(:20) "The Breakup Artist" (2004) Joseph Lyle Taylor. 'R'	★★★ "Four Brothers" (2005, Crime Drama) Mark Wahlberg.  'R'				★★★ "Down in the Valley" (2005, Drama) Edward Norton.  'R'														
	STARZ!	(5:30) ★★★ "The Program" (1993) James Caan. 'R'				★★★ "Open Season" (2006) Voices of Martin Lawrence.				★★★ "Catch and Release" (2007) Jennifer Garner.  'PG-13'				Anime: Drawing a Revolution Movies.											
ENCORE	(:15) ★★★ "The Sandlot" (1993, Comedy-Drama) Tom Guiry.  'PG'				★★★ "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" (1992) Macaulay Culkin. 'PG'				(:05) ★★★ "Waiting to Exhale" (1995) Whitney Houston.  'R'																



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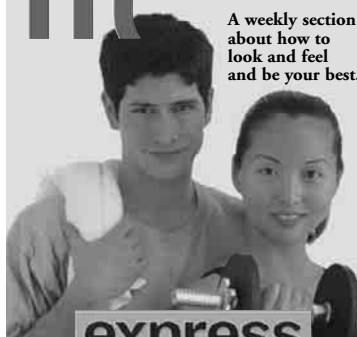
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Nat'l moving CO now hiring. Lifting/loading nec. Clean DMV & bgkd check req'd. 3yrs exp in the moving industry. Up to \$17/hr. Call 703-256-6403 (Alex) or 240-318-0590 (DC North)

## JOBS

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#### Writer/Editor

Trade association seeks Staff Writer/Editor to develop and write news and feature articles for the association's weekly newspaper. Responsible for interviewing, drafting original articles, copy editing, rewriting, proofreading, and editing for web site. Subjects include, but are not limited to, public transportation industry with primary emphasis on federal government news (Congressional activity and DOT actions), state and local funding, and public interest and governmental organization activities affecting transit. Attend relevant hearings and meetings to cover activities. Degree in journalism, English, communications, or related field with 2 to 3 years of relevant job experience and/or significant writing experience a must. Knowledge of the workings of Congress and federal agencies, familiarity with functions, operations of local government or public agencies helpful. Excellent benefits. Submit resume, cover letter with salary history and writing samples to: **aptajobs@apta.com**

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### Financial Analysts

Metro has multiple openings in finance and accounting. Seeking junior and senior financial analysts experienced in revenue forecasting, pricing analysis, budget development, capital program oversight, performance measurement, independent financial research and financial reporting. All positions work closely with CFO. Experience with PeopleSoft financials and budgeting is a plus. Also seeking web development skills and people with background in technical financial writing.

Metro offers competitive salaries, with excellent fringe benefits, and the opportunity for future growth. Please apply on-line at **www.wmata.com**.



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Tyson's Corner Marriott  
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## SALES

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## SALES

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SE — 1 br. 4633 Hillside Rd. hdwds, ceil fans, Sect 8 ok. 703-967-8206

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CARS

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Acura 1994 Legend — L, \$4500, 125k mi, 4 dr, good clean cond, V6, manual, tan leathr mem seats,mnrf, sunrf, 1 owner 10yrs 202-415-7850

Honda 2006 Accord — EX, \$17900, Excellent cond, 23k, Tan int, Blue ext, 4 dr, alloy wheels, Sunrf, Buckets, ABS, alarm, CD, 703-406-4646

Honda 1999 Civic — EX, \$3500.00, Good cond, 134k mi, Gray int, Black ext, 2 dr, Sunrf, CD, PL, airbag driver, 757-373-2316 Lots of new parts.

JUNK VEHICLES REMOVED FREE CASH PAY FOR ALL  
202-714-9835

Nissan 2005 Murano — SL, \$20899 obo, Excellent cond, 41k mi, Tan int, Blue ext, 4 dr, Lthr Int, 703-999-4209

PLYMOUTH 1997 NEON — Auto, 4dr, blue, runs great, only 41k mi, 1 owner. \$1300. 202-744-7187

Volkswagen 2001 Golf — Super Low Miles and competitively priced bc moving, \$5800, Good cond, drives great, only 56k mi, Blue ext, 2 dr, Cass, 4 new tires, new batt, ABS, alarm, keyless entry, 202-374-0296

Volkswagen 1999 Passat — GLS V6, \$6800 obo, Excellent cond, 754k mi, Black int, Silver ext, 4 dr, Lthr Int, 202-251-1384

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# LOOK out

\* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

## Culture

### Beijing students get worldly-wise ahead of the summer games

The students at Yangfangdian school in Beijing are doing their homework for the Olympics.

A replica of a Mediterranean-style orchard recalls ancient Olympia and dominates a corner of the school's courtyard. Inside, pupils bone up on Germany, the country they've been assigned to support when the Beijing Games open Aug. 8.

"The most important thing about the Olympics is to take part and not just to win," said 9-year-old Chen Jiayu. "The other players and opponents are also our friends."

Hosting the Olympics is a source of immense national pride in China, reaching deep into schools where values like friendship and fair competition are taught alongside patriotism and loyalty to China's one-party political system.

Students point proudly as they walk through the school's version of a Greek arbor, with plastic grapes overhead. Named the "Olympic Corridor," it's a gallery filled with Greek curios and Olympic posters, some of which were displayed in a Moscow hotel where Beijing was awarded the games in 2001.

Played prominently is a photo of Premier Zhou Enlai with the 1971 U.S. table tennis team, which ushered in the era of "pingpong diplomacy."

"We've had events here like a mock Olympics in which every class represents one country," said 12-year-old Zheng Hanyu. "The school intercom always broadcasts programs about the history of the Olympics and about Chinese and foreign athletes who won medals."

Yangfangdian is one of about

200 schools in Beijing charged with welcoming foreign teams when they arrive next summer, even cheering for them against Chinese athletes and raising their national flags at ceremonies.

Down the road in west Beijing, Cui Wei school has drawn Pakistan.

In northeastern Beijing, the Huajiadi school is supporting Asian archrival Japan, a former wartime enemy.

"The Olympics are not about just building stadiums and 17 days of competition. [They are] for educating people, for social and cultural activities," said Pei Dong Guang, who teaches at Beijing's Capital Institute of Physical Education. "Sometimes Chinese misunderstand other cultures from being isolated too long."

Educated at the International

INSIDE

Jamie Lynn Spears, 16, is pregnant | 30



Roundabout: Knit a scarf with no ends | 27

Discussions: Reliable Source talks gossip | 28



THAT'S THE SPIRIT: Students prep for the Summer Olympics by judging a competition, above, and practicing cheers, below.

# Olympian Education

Centre for Olympic Studies at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, Pei has helped organize the school exchanges, a program started to accompany the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics.

China calls its version "Heart to Heart," an education-driven effort that allows the business-oriented Olympics to claim a connection with the values of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics.

"The more the Olympics commercialize, the more those people involved in the larger project of writing and teaching Olympic history want to fight back and claim they have a stake, too," said Susan Brownell, an anthropologist and an expert on Chinese sports.

"It [Olympic education] is not primarily about China's image in the world or propping up the



communist party," Brownell said. "This is directed at shaping the next generation of Chinese in a way the government believes will best serve China's economic development and political stability."

At Yangfangdian and other schools, the exchange program is overseen by a "moral education" teacher who focuses on discipline and instilling student pride in China and the games.

**The Olympics** are not about just ... competition. [They are] for educating people, for social and cultural activities."

PEI DONG GUANG, BEIJING TEACHER

"In our Olympic education, we tell the students how China used to be called the 'sick man of east Asia,' about China's Olympic history and how we were once expelled from the games," said Xu Xiaoyan, who teaches moral education at Yangfangdian.

"Now China is the host of the games, and the country is developing and has become very strong."

STEPHEN WADE (AP)



# On Your Plate in 2008

## Food

### Buying local is likely to be a popular trend in the coming year

Americans are getting increasingly intimate with their food, and 2008 likely will see the relationship deepen.

That's because two forces — the proliferation of foodie culture and its obsessive desire for provenance, and growing worries over food safety — have combined to create a whirlwind of information about food and drink.

And all signs indicate the storm is just starting. So here are some trends likely to influence what you eat in '08.

#### Local Foods

In marketing terms, "organic" has jumped the shark. Savvy food marketers today are latching onto the latest child of the natural foods movement — local — and are trying



A manager stocks locally grown squash at a grocery store in Manchester, N.H.

ing to take it mainstream.

As eco-sensitivity has grown, consumers have questioned whether eating organic grapes from Chile is a particularly "green" choice. Now people want to know how far their food traveled, and the closer the better.

Hence, the growth in farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture, restaurant menus bragging about local sourcing, and the naming of "locavore" as word of the year by the New Oxford American Dictionary.

### Now people want to know how far their food has traveled, and the closer the better.

#### Varietal

Where once it was enough to say where and how food was produced, consumers now also want to know the specific varieties of ingredients and breeds of animals it was produced with.

As in, whether Macouns or Red Delicious were used to make an applesauce. Or which breed of cow produced the milk used to make a particular cheese.

#### Food Safety

Repeated recalls of meat and produce have drawn attention to the sluggish and outdated American food safety system, and the gov-

ernment has faced mounting calls for an overhaul.

While the government might not move quickly on that issue, marketers will. Expect food companies to tout new and increased safety measures. The issue (including demands for a streamlined and effective government agency to oversee the issue) also will get more headlines.

Other trends to watch for:

#### 'Bad' Foods Fight Back

Tired of being the nutritional bad boys, foods of questionable nutritional value are fighting back. Unilever-owned Hellmann's recently had an ad that admonished, "It's time to say no to fake food." New jars of Hellmann's mayonnaise are labeled "Real."

#### New 'Sugars'

Speaking of nutritional culprits, sugar had better watch its back. A growing variety of alternative natural sweeteners, from honey-like agave syrup to ultra-sweet stevia, are crowding grocers' shelves.

#### Grocery Stores Get Sexier

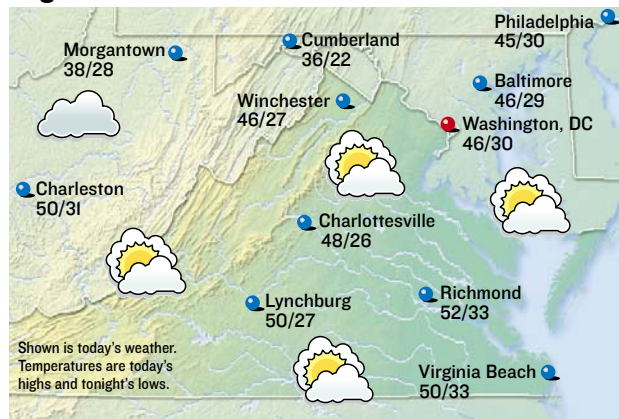
The '90s were all about grocers becoming either massive superstores or sparse warehouses.

Today, the trend is toward glamming up the grocery experience. You'll see lots of attractive displays of prepared foods. J.M. HIRSCH (AP)

### 5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly sunny	Partly cloudy	Cloudy, misty early	Cloudy, patchy drizzle	Cloudy, rain, windy	Partly sunny, colder
46°	30°	45° / 34°	49° / 40°	57° / 36°	42° / 31°

### Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

### Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.

#### Temperature

High	42°
Low	36°
Normal high	46°
Normal low	31°
Average humidity	49%

#### Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.85"
Normal month to date	1.85"
Year to date	31.50"
Last year to date	46.36"
Normal year to date	38.15"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: [washingtonpost.com/weather](http://washingtonpost.com/weather)

### Regional Forecast

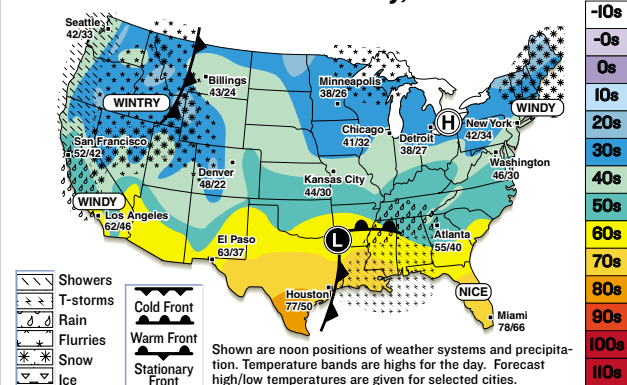
**D.C. Metro:** Today, partly sunny. High 46. Wind north 6-12 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 30. Wind north-northeast 4-8 mph.

### Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:22 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:49 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:39 p.m.
Moonset today	3:24 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Dec 23	Dec 31	Jan 8	Jan 15

### National Weather for Thursday, December 20



### National Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	55/40/t	58/43/w
Boston	36/28/sn	33/25/pc
Chicago	41/32/c	41/33/pc
Dallas	69/43/pc	73/51/pc
Denver	48/22/c	35/11/sn
Honolulu	81/70/pc	82/69/s
Los Angeles	62/46/r	62/44/s
Miami	78/66/pc	81/65/pc
New York City	42/34/pc	42/34/pc
Orlando	75/57/pc	78/56/pc
Seattle	42/33/sh	41/37/pc

### World Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Amsterdam	37/25/s	37/25/s
Athens	54/39/pc	57/39/s
Berlin	36/25/s	34/25/s
Buenos Aires	90/68/s	90/63/t
Calgary	35/8/pc	14/5/pc
Dublin	45/37/pc	48/41/pc
Geneva	42/26/s	46/33/pc
Moscow	30/25/sf	28/23/sf
Rome	54/36/s	55/37/s
Sydney	78/71/c	84/75/pc
Tokyo	47/37/s	51/40/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



Styles

Look  
out\*

# What Goes Around

## Who knew? Buy or knit a scarf that doesn't dangle

If scarves have a downside, it's their trailing ends. Short scarves unhook and need rearranging; longer scarves want to drag behind, or drop suddenly into a mug of cocoa.

But sew the ends of a knit scarf and you have the problem solved — and the scarf pretty much perfected. It's one of those ideas that seems so obvious you'd think someone surely discovered it a long time ago.

At Goat Boutique in Costa Mesa, Calif., co-owner Matthew Thomas started stocking Ever's connected scarves almost three months ago. The scarves, made by Orange County native Jason Bleick's four-year-old company, quickly sold out. With customers clamoring for more, Thomas' grandmother offered to make them herself.

"She started counting the stitches and said, 'Oh, I can make this,'" Thomas says of his grandmother Verba Gore, a self-taught knitter.

Gore uses wool or cashmere, in solid colors or multicolored yarn that knits up in variegated stripes. Thomas sells the pieces for \$110 to \$150.

A quick look at one of the gorgeous scarves and you can see why Gore decided to make them herself:



While she arguably could make better use of it on her head, it's still a nice scarf.

They are just a simple rib stitch, 5½ feet of it, with no intarsia or cables. You barely need a pattern. In one color, on size 10 needles, you can knit the scarf in a long afternoon of movie watching. Then, when you're finished knitting, simply fold the long scarf in half, twist it once (this lets it hang nicely) and sew up the ends.

**As long as you get the gauge right, you can knit this out of just about any yarn.**

The scarf is fun to wear, too. Wind it around twice and you have a loose fit in the first loop, with the second forming a pretty cowl. Hook it three times for a thick neck fit; or let it fall down your back in a single, irreverent loop. Or get a little creative: Pull one loop over your head or wind it under your shoulder.

Go all black in a luscious cashmere, or work a sportier scarf by pairing a pearl gray Peruvian wool with a skein of scarlet. As long as you get the gauge right, you can knit this out of just about any yarn.

AMY SCATTERGOOD (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

## Skin Care



### Sweet Surrender

Vanilla is nice in cookies and 'n'og. But most non-food products (potpourri, soap) claiming to be scented with the bean smack of Glade air freshener, not sweets. Yet Laura Mercier's **FRENCH VANILLA TRIO** (\$65, Laura Mercier.com), a set with bath goop, lotion and a candle, smells subtle, like a pudding from a Paris cafe. It's a tad messy to drip the honey/vanilla bath foam into the tub with the attached wooden dipper. But as our tester lounged in the foam, watching the 'nilla candle flicker, she felt as if she was steeping in eclair filling. A rub of the lotion, and she was ready to be sold in the La Madeleine pastry case.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

## Skin Care



### Enter the Abyss(ine)

The new "+" after the names of Kiehl's popular Abyssine products heralds the addition of Corallina officinalis, a red seaweed, in extract form. What's more exciting for us, however, is the addition of **ABYSSINE CREAM+ SPF 23** (\$45, Kiehls.com) to the line, because most hardcore anti-aging power moisturizers lack sunscreen — the biggest anti-ager of them all. The combo is pretty seamless; It has none of the slime and/or chalkiness of sunscreens and, though it's a dense formula, goes on lightly. We were able to dust on powder immediately after application, sans clumpy patches. HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)

**KNIT IT** ►► HERE'S A NEEDLE IDEA

## How to Make a Connected Scarf

**Time:** About 6½ hours

**Measurements:** 64 inches by 4½ inches, ribbed

**Materials:** Three skeins of cashmere or soft wool yarn, (two skeins of gray and one skein of red, or colors of your choice); matching thread.

**Needles:** U.S. size 10 knitting needles; yarn needle; sewing needle

**Gauge:** Five stitches and five rows equal 1 inch

1. With size 10 needles, cast on 45 stitches in gray, the main color.
2. Row 1 (RS) k3, p3; repeat in this pattern until the end of the row.
3. Row 2 (WS) p3, k3; repeat in this pattern until the end of the row.
4. Continue ribbing until the scarf measures about 32 inches. On an RS, switch to the red yarn and continue knitting in rib pattern in the secondary color until you have about 24 inches of red (this should be about the end of the skein). End after an RS row.



5. Switch back to gray and continue knitting in rib pattern until the whole scarf measures 64 inches. Bind off in pattern on a RS row. Using a yarn needle, weave in the loose ends, making sure that the colored ends are woven into their same-colored pieces of scarf.

6. Spread out the scarf, fold it in half, and twist one piece of the scarf once. Pin or hold the two ends together so that the pattern matches up: The knits will meet the purls, the purls the knits.

7. Using thread that matches the gray, or main yarn color, sew together the ends of the scarf using a basic whipstitch.



# Look out Online


[readexpress.com](http://readexpress.com)

## site specifics

### BAGGAGE CHECK

#### Timing the First Time

A recent study found that those whose first sexual encounter occurred at an age either significantly younger or older than average are more likely to experience sexual problems later. Dr. Andrea Bonior discusses the findings and the ills of all-or-none thinking when it comes to sex. | ONLINE NOW



### FREE RIDE

#### The Rat's Meow

It's illegal to eat and drink in the Metrorail system—a fact that Metro's been publicizing with renewed vigor in recent weeks. Express' Michael Grass has the details on the transit agency's newest campaign, which comes complete with warnings about roaming rodents. | COMING UP

### MUSIC

#### Weather Report

S.T.O.R.M. Reggae Band's high-energy music is a top-notch blast of butt-busting rhythms and harmonious voices. Express' Christopher Porter spoke to the band before its three-night stand at Bukom Cafe, which begins Friday. | ONLINE NOW



## comment board

**“It is not** the phone that annoys [me] per se, it is the person [who] chooses to answer the phone and has a full-blown conversation that annoys me.”

**COMMENTER MARCUS LANGFORD**, WHO ADDED, “I MEAN, REALLY: WHO WANTS TO KNOW ALL OF YOUR BUSINESS?!”

**“I realize that** [taking] public transportation means having to put up with some inconveniences, but there is basic etiquette everyone should follow.”

**COMMENTER KATE**, WHO ADDED, “IF YOU RIDE EVERY DAY, [YOU SHOULD KNOW] THAT NO ONE WANTS TO HEAR YOUR LOUD RINGTONE.”



**“[Asking] this question** is like asking whether you'd rather be shot or stabbed. I choose cell-phones because they're the more frequently abused item.”

**COMMENTER TJS**, RESPONDING TO WEDNESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, “WHICH NOISE DO YOU FIND MOST ANNOYING ON THE METRO: CELLPHONES OR IPODS?”

## poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

WHICH NOISE DO YOU FIND MOST ANNOYING ON THE METRO: CELLPHONES OR IPODS?

**PHONES** 74%

**IPODS** 26%

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT [READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP](http://readexpress.com/pollcenter.php)

## Blog LOG

“So much for her career, I assume. ... Having a child at 16, I do not think any of those [Nickelodeon]-related networks will touch her.”

A COMMENTER AT **THESUPERFICIAL.COM** REACTS TO THE NEWS THAT JAMIE LYNN SPEARS, THE YOUNGER SISTER OF BRITNEY, IS PREGNANT.



### “THE TWO LEADING

theories I've heard are [that Vice President] Cheney spontaneously combusted just before [President] Bush signed the energy bill or that the devil came to collect his soul.”

A **DCIST.COM** COMMENTER JOKES ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CAUSES OF WEDNESDAY'S TWO-ALARM FIRE IN THE EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING ON THE WHITE HOUSE CAMPUS.

**“[I]t's clear that** [Peter Jackson] loves and respects Tolkien's work, so I'm sure I'm not the only geek who would be willing to wait until 2011 or 2012. ... [W]hat's a few more years to get it right?”

**WILWHEATON.TYPEPAD.COM** IS EXCITED FOR WHAT THE “LORD OF THE RINGS” DIRECTOR WILL DO WITH “THE HOBBIT.”

**“BY DAY FOUR**, it had found its way across the sidewalk and was nestled up against the front of an apartment building, half-buried in a pile of fallen leaves. ... [I]t was filled with celery, about 40 pounds worth. That would have made a lot of soup, I figured, or maybe one very large Waldorf salad.”

**THESLOWCOOK.BLOGSPOT.COM** KEPT AN EYE ON AN ABANDONED BOX OF PRODUCE.

**“HERE I AM** in my comfortable, luxury car, having never taken so much as a spitball to defend this country, while he's probably in somebody's auto repair shop every other month trying to keep that thing on the road. ... Maybe I need to focus my volunteer efforts on veterans.”

**SUGARNSPICE.TYPEPAD.COM** CAME ACROSS A BROKEN-DOWN CAR WITH SPECIAL PURPLE HEART LICENSE PLATES.

## Discussions

### Reliable Source

Reliable Source columnists **AMY ARGETSINGER** and **ROXANNE ROBERTS** were online Wednesday and talked about Jamie Lynn Spears' pregnancy, Hillary's new campaign ad and Barney cookies at the White House press holiday party.

**How did OK! get this scoop? Is there a reason that they chose to out this in that magazine and not, say, “Us” or “People”?**

OK! has carved itself a niche in the celebrity-glossy mag world by doing — how shall we put this —

stories that are very protective and complimentary to certain stars in exchange for exclusive rights.

**If Hillary Clinton has been in public life for 25 years, how come we now have to have a full press “Getting to Know Her” media campaign complete with Web site testimonials to her humanity?**

Because to know her was to hate her. So, now you have to REAL-LY know her; then you'll love her. Got that?

**In your piece this week about the White House press holiday party, the food included “Barney cookies.” Is that, like, the dog? What were they like?**

Yes, Barney the dog cookies in the shape of Scottish terriers. Very cute, chocolate icing and yummy.

**Ben Affleck will replace Ed Norton as the congressman in the Washington thriller “State of Play,” thus ending the movie's good hopes.**

Actually, no. Think about Ben as a handsome, ambitious, superficial junior congressman caught up in forces beyond his scope to handle. Think Bennifer. Playing a man in over his head might be right up his alley.

### TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS:

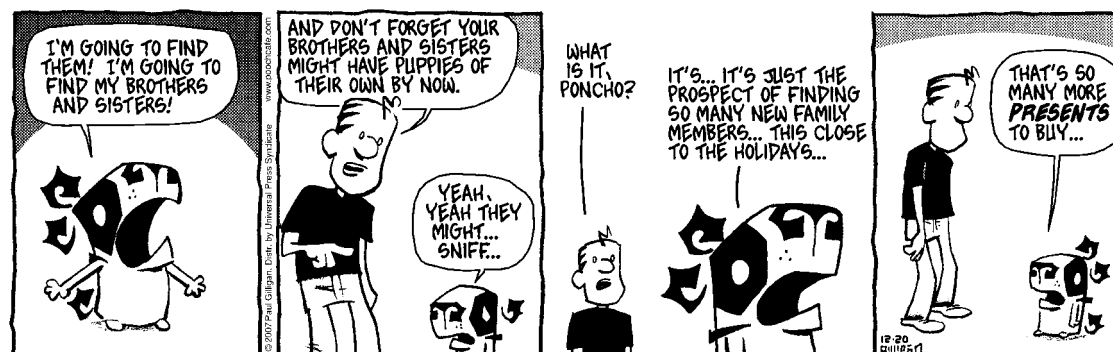
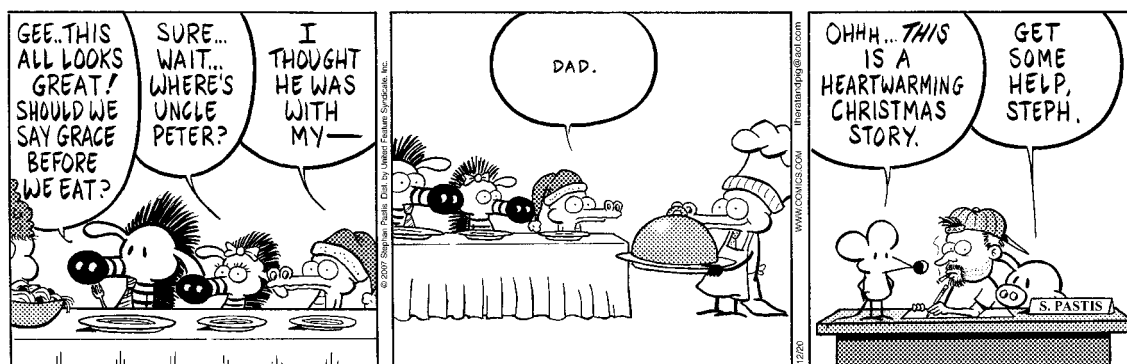
Car expert Pat Goss will be online to answer your questions about car repair and maintenance at 11 a.m. | [washingtonpost.com/discussions](http://washingtonpost.com/discussions).

## DO

**GET READY FOR A POSSIBLE NAME CHANGE, FREDERICK BREWING DRINKERS.** The Flying Dog Brewery owner, who bought the Frederick Brewing Company last year, plans to move all of his company's production from Colorado to Frederick, Md., but hasn't decided whether to change the company name.



**Bizarro** | Dan Piraro

**Pooch Cafe** | Paul Gilligan

**Pearls Before Swine** | Stephan Pastis

**The Duplex** | Glenn McCoy

**Cornered** | Mike Baldwin


"Spent much of his life sucking up to people. Left you all his brownie points."

## Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** You may find it difficult to work well with others watching over your shoulder, but their interest is not unflattering.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** You'll have the chance to put yourself front and center — but be prepared to weather any criticism that comes as a result.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** You've been trying to attract far too much attention to yourself of late, without focusing your energies appropriately on your own tasks.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** A social gathering can offer you more than entertainment and a time for reflection. Profit can result if you talk with the right people.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Rhythm is everything; you're going to want to be sure that you're properly in sync with yourself and with others all at the same time.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Make sure that your behavior is in line with your intentions.

tions. You don't want to be accused of having any ulterior motives.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** There is no use trying to hide who you really are at this time. Sure, there are those who will criticize, but most will find you endearing.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** You're about to be introduced to something that may indeed change your life — provided you are open-minded and receptive to it.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Get yourself together as quickly as possible, for you will want to be on top of your game from the start. You won't have a warm-up period.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Put your best foot forward. Someone is watching — and this is a person who has the power to make or break a favorite project of yours.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** This is a good day for you to take a more aggressive approach to requests for money and other forms of support. Many are likely to oblige you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** You can learn a lot from watching others, but the opposite is also true; those around you have much to learn from you as well.

## Letters

**Loud iPods Can Hurt Hearing**

**REGARDING LETTER WRITER** Sherri Cole's insistence on using her iPod to block out common annoyances on Metro ("iPods Block Other Noises," Dec. 19), she might want to reconsider her thinking, because

direct delivery of music into one's ears can cause irreversible hearing loss. And I wholeheartedly agree with letter writer Shannon Campbell that iPod listeners should turn down the volume. Consideration of others should be a given, but the "me" mentality seems to prevail most of the time.

—CAROLYN ROMAN  
Alexandria, Va.

**WRITE TO EXPRESS:** Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to [inbox@readexpress.com](mailto:inbox@readexpress.com) or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

## Today in History

**1803** The Louisiana Purchase is completed as ownership of the territory is formally transferred from France to the United States during ceremonies in New Orleans.

**1860** South Carolina becomes the first state to secede from the Union.

**1968** Author John Steinbeck dies in New York at age 66.

**1997** President Nelson Mandela steps down as leader of South Africa's governing African National Congress.



Nelson Mandela stepped down from South Africa's ANC on this day in 1997.

**1999** The Vermont Supreme Court rules that homosexual couples are entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples.



# LOOK out People



Twenty-two was once over the hill.

## PREGNANCY In the Year 1000, Normal Would Be Jamie Lynn; Freaky Would Be This

British pop singer **LILY ALLEN**, 22, and her boyfriend, Ed Simons of the Chemical Brothers, are expecting their first child, said Allen's spokesman, Jon Bills. "As the pregnancy is at such an early stage, the couple will be making no further comment, but they are obviously both thrilled by the news," Bills said. (AP)



## HEARTWARMING!

# Christmas Miracle

**JAMIE LYNN SPEARS**, the 16-year-old "Zoey 101" star and sister of Britney, is pregnant by her boyfriend, Casey Aldridge. "I definitely don't think [premarital sex] is something you should do; it's better to wait," she told OK! "But I can't be judgmental." (AP)

## DULL Extreme Dude, Really Unextreme Mischief

A security video and shoe prints led to Olympic snowboarder **SHAUN WHITE**, who was accused of setting off a fire extinguisher at a ski resort in Breckenridge, Colo., though there was no fire. White, 21, was cited on a charge

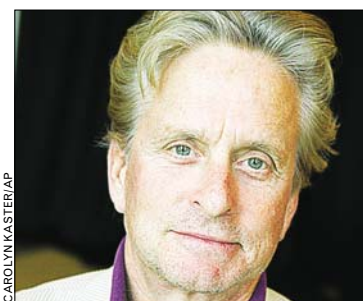


We usually don't put snowboarders on this page. This is why.

of second-degree criminal tampering. He was also questioned by deputies about a stolen Audi "because he was in the vicinity of the car," said Summit County sheriff's spokeswoman Paulette Horr. (AP)

## JOBS Better Still: This New Gig Doesn't Require Any Botox

**MICHAEL DOUGLAS** has a new role on TV five nights per week. NBC chose the 63-year-old actor-producer as the announcer to introduce Brian Williams on the "Nightly News" each night. His recorded introduction was first heard Monday. For 25 years, Howard Reig introduced the broadcast live each night. (AP)



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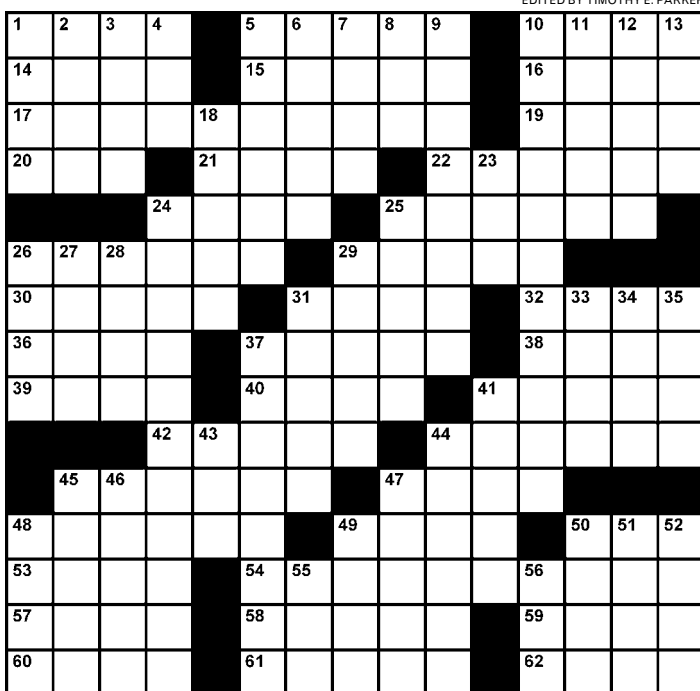
## CROSSWORD | GEM STATE

### ACROSS

- 1 Drinking spree  
5 Camcorder  
attachment  
10 This put a tiger in your tank  
14 Ragout, for one  
15 Australian marsupial  
16 Umpteen  
17 Prospecting woman?  
19 "Waiting for the Robert \_\_\_\_"  
20 Large entry in the dictionary  
21 Colorado creeks, e.g.  
22 Tooth deposit  
24 Transgresses  
25 Reveal  
26 Reducing, as stress  
29 Ryan of "Love Story"  
30 Maliciously follow  
31 Wild animal's resting place  
32 Cook's smidgen  
36 Balkan native  
37 Some coaches (Abbr.)  
38 Certain Algonquian  
39 Sinn Fein's land  
40 Lessen  
41 Where Alice worked  
42 Memorable TV miniseries  
44 Patrons of 41-Across  
45 Track meet event  
47 "The Office"

### DOWN

- award  
48 Beefeater  
49 Italian island  
50 \_\_\_\_ loss  
53 Prefix meaning "high"  
54 Philanthropist  
Brady  
57 Land map  
58 North Pole helpers  
59 Anthroponym  
60 Window part  
61 They make things happen  
62 Square measures

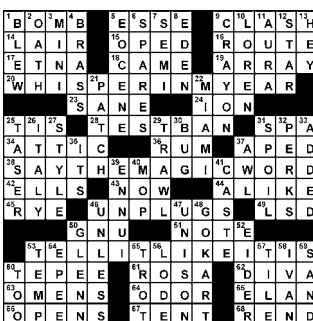


EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

- 27 King of the Huns  
28 River from the Vosges Mountains  
29 Conical kilns  
31 Law school admission exams  
33 British composer  
34 Farsighted one  
35 Towel word  
37 Was plentiful  
41 Hyrax  
43 "L\_\_\_\_ del Cairo" (unfinished Mozart opera)  
44 Create an

- outstanding design?  
45 TV angel  
46 Little bits  
47 Gantry or Fudd  
48 Jabbers  
49 Roof overhang  
50 Partly open  
51 Word with "capsule" or "clock"  
52 Singing brothers  
55 Workers' grp.  
56 Genetic letters

### Yesterday's Solution



© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

## SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com) for solution, tips and computer program.

### Need more Su/doku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

### Yesterday's Solution

4	3	8	5	1	9	2	6	7
1	9	2	4	6	7	8	5	3
7	6	5	8	3	2	1	9	4
9	4	3	6	7	1	5	2	8
5	2	1	9	8	3	4	7	6
6	8	7	2	4	5	3	1	9
8	5	9	7	2	4	6	3	1
3	7	6	1	5	8	9	4	2
2	1	4	3	9	6	7	8	5

7				6		4		
		8					6	5
		9		3	1			
				5	8			
	7		1	4		5		
			6	7				
		1	2		8			
3	4				5			
	9		4					2

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# [on the]spot

✱ **NAME:** Charles Ross

**GIG:** Writer and performer of "One Man Star Wars"

**CANADIAN ACTOR** Charles Ross never thought he'd cast himself as the eternal geek. But years of auditioning to little notice drove him to take matters into his own hands. Ross penned "One Man Star Wars" — a highly editorialized rewrite of the original George Lucas film trilogy distilled into an hour-long, one-man performance.

The show blasted Ross' career into hyperspace upon its debut in 2001, and he's been performing it ever since. (Ross has also since written and staged an equally inspired "One Man Lord of the Rings".)

In 2005, the Lucasfilm empire asked him to perform at its official fan convention, Celebration 3. The endorsement further boosted Ross' career and freed him from any courtroom anxiety he right-

fully might have had.

Like many "Star Wars" fans, Ross knows the story inside and out, and in performance, he pieces the action scenes and dialogue together in uncanny fashion, connecting just enough dots for the audience to keep up and fill in the gaps. It helps, too, that Ross is the spitting image of the saga's unlikely moisture-farmer/hero.

**Has anyone ever told you that you look like Mark Hamill?**

Yes, unfortunately. I always wanted to be Darth Vader, but I look like Mark Hamill [as Luke Skywalker].

**Why is the "Star Wars" saga so popular?**

I think because of the idea that a little guy — a schmo — can help solve big problems. It's an empowering story ... and most people know it well enough to follow my



JASON WOODRUFF

**A FORCE OF ONE:** Charles Ross plays every character in his stripped-down saga.

editorial leaps.

**When you think of "Star Wars," do you think of the first trilogy only, or all six episodes?**

For me, it's the original. The special effects are better in the first three, and, to guys like me, it's also a '70s thing.

**Is "Star Wars" a guy thing?**

Yeah, I think so. ... There's really only one major female character in the story: Princess Leia. Also, guys can mimic laser blast and robot sounds better than girls can.

**How long have you been acting?**

I've been acting since I was eight. It's the only thing I've ever been good at. I think I'm still an actor. ... Right now, I'm a one-man show.

**"The special effects are better in the first three and, to guys like me, it's also a '70s thing."**

**Is there life after "One Man Star Wars"?**

I have a new one-man show that I'm currently rehearsing. It's an unrequited love story set in a convenience store ... based on my own experience working at a 7-Eleven. The central character has a confrontational, medieval alter ego. It's cartoonish and over-the-top, but still in touch with reality.

JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

→ *Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, 641 D St. NW; through Dec. 30, \$28-\$32; 202 393-3939. (Archives-Navy Memorial)*

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# A Lesson From the Streets

## 'Breath, Boom' tracks a girl gangster from violence to maturity

**STAGE** | The Studio Theatre and director Rahaleh Nassri aim for the stars with "Breath, Boom," the story of a teenage gangster in New York City with a passion for fireworks.

The play, at the Studio 2ndStage, follows Prix (Roxi Trap Dukes Victorian), a 16-year-old girl, through a 14-year period between 1993 and 2007 as she attempts to deal with a troubled past and a broken home to achieve her dream of becoming a fireworks engineer.

Along the way, there's plenty of action as Prix broods and her fellow gang-girls joke about their latest hits or look back on their now-



**THE COMPANY SHE KEEPS:** Roxi Trap Dukes Victorian brings intensity to the role of Prix, a teen who is sucked into — and must extricate herself from — a violent life.

dead friends.

This play isn't for the little ones — Nassri attempts to accurately portray street life with constant violence, and while most of the fight scenes are choreographed well, some scenes contain little or no dialogue.

The script (by Kia Corthron) jumps from year to year, and, in the second act, begins to feature some flashbacks as she's haunted by her murdered father-figure, Jerome (Theodore M. Snead).

Despite some confusion, the play is still powerful and moving, due in part to Victorian's portrayal of Prix's intense pain and struggle.

JASON KOEBLER

→ **Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW;** through Jan. 6, \$29; 202-332-3300. (U St.-Cardozo)

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- **BLUE MAN GROUP** Patriot Center, Feb. 9 & 10, \$52.50-\$78; 800-551-7328.
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## Raise your swords and say 'Ni!' — 'Spamalot' is here

**STAGE** | There's nothing like truth in advertising: Camelot is, in fact, a silly place, and it is never sillier than in the Monty Python musical "Spamalot."

The show, at the National Theatre through Jan. 6, is another in a line of film-to-Broadway adaptations, turning the classic King Arthur-saga/absurdc Comedy "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" into an even sillier stage musical.

Aussie actor Michael Siberry takes on the royal role of Arthur for the touring show, winner of three 2007 Touring Broadway Awards, including Best New Musical.

"This version of King Arthur is very fun to play," Siberry said. "Nobody takes him very seriously. He's slightly bewildered and confused. It's good to be king."

Arthur, and his coco-nut-banging patsy, Patsy, gallop around Britain in search of brave knights to help him on his quest for the Holy Grail. The show, which basically re-imagines the film, pulls classic scenes from the Python

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# The Ministry of Silly Quests



canon and forms it into a satirical show with a clear narrative.

"It's very silly, but it's a pretty disciplined and tightly structured piece of musical theater," Siberry said. "It's great to be in a piece of musical theater that you're not trying to make too believable. It doesn't take itself seriously at all. And that kind of self-mocking kind of thing helps you to sustain it. There're not many jobs that I can think of that I could do for this length of time, but this one has been a lot of fun and hopefully, that's infectious, as far as the audience is concerned."

Siberry recalls watching "Monty Python" as a schoolboy and being fascinated by it, even after he admits that, at that age, he never completely understood it.

Now, he gets to re-create some of his favorite scenes, from the encounter with the French taunter, originally played by John Cleese, to the encounter with the stalwart Black Knight, who gets his limbs chopped off.

Rounding out the round table are Sir Lancelot, the Homicidally Brave; Sir Robin, the Not-Quite-So-Brave-as-Sir-Lancelot; Sir Dennis Gallahad, The Dashing Handsome; and Sir Bedevere, the Strangely Flatulent.

Together, these knights run through favorite scenes from the movie — the Knights who say "Ni," the "Bring out your dead!" scene, the encounter with Tim the Enchanter and the killer rabbit, all twisted to make the musical work. Many of the new songs introduced for the stage show parody familiar Broadway fare.

For any Python fans who don't like musicals, don't let its mockery of other stage shows dissuade you from partaking in the hilarity.

"It's just a very entertaining piece of nonsense," Siberry said. "It's everything it sort of appears to be — a lot of color and movement with no particular message except always look on the bright side of life." SCOTT A. ROSENBERG (EXPRESS)

→ *National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; through Jan. 6, \$46.50-\$151.50; 202-628-6161.*

## Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



### MADAME TUSSAUDS

#### Wax Never Sleeps

So it's expensive and this (see above) doesn't look like Beyoncé — or anybody, really. But Madame Tussauds D.C. is practically the only game in town this Christmas Day. The wax museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 365 days a year, so you can stop in and say hi to Brangelina, Tiger and Hillary while the rest of the city is deep in its eggnog coma.

→ *Madame Tussauds, 1025 F St. NW; \$25, \$18 ages 4-12; 202-942-7300, mamadetussaudsdc.com.*

### DOC SCANTLIN

#### Swing Time

D.C.'s favorite bandleader strikes up his Imperial Palms Orchestra this weekend as Doc Scantlin hosts "Christmas at the Carlyle Club." Get merry with Doc, Chou Chou and the Girlfriends as they spread Art Deco Yuletide cheer.

→ *The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria; Fri., \$35; 703-548-5953.*

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→ *Mahogany Restaurant and Lounge, 2001 11th St. NW; Sat., 9 p.m.-3 a.m.; 202-299-0800. (U St.-Cardozo)*

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LEON LEVY  
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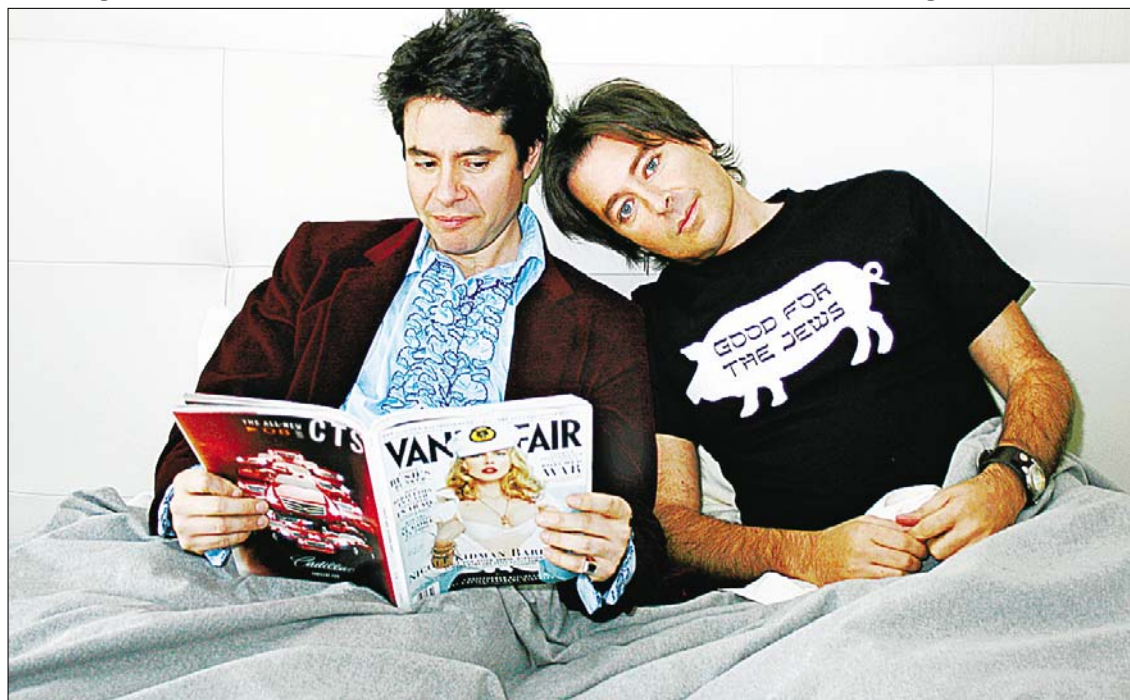
# The 'Oy' in 'Holidays'

## The post-Hanukkah shenanigans that are Good for the Jews

REVUE | Rob Tannenbaum takes a lot of crap about his name, especially come December. "Eleven months of the year, I have to spell my last name for people," he says. "And then one month of the year, everybody sings to me."

"Sometimes people do say, 'What is a Jew doing with a last name that means 'Christmas tree?'" There's really a pretty simple etymological explanation, and that is: A Christmas tree is, at most, 2007 years old, but the name 'Tannenbaum' is four or five thousand years old, probably, and it actually translates from the German as 'fir tree.'"

You heard it here first. Christmas trees are older than Christmas. There'll be other lessons from shul when Tannenbaum and David Fagin pull into the Birchmere this weekend as Good for the Jews, currently on its Heeb magazine-sponsored



**HARDLY KOSHER:** Rob Tannenbaum and David Fagin send up Jewish culture and various musical genres in "Good for the Jews."

Putting the Ha! in Hanukkah Tour.

"I like to use the word 'band' because it feels more impres-

sive. It's kind of a size-inferiority thing," Tannenbaum explains. "Duo" doesn't sound like much for your entertainment dollar; 'band,'

however, is lofty."

Expect such Myspace faves as "They Tried to Kill Us," a scrambled history lesson in which Moses

marches with Martin Luther King Jr., and "JDate," a power-pop field guide to the only online dating service you can bring home to Mama: "It's like Amazon.com but with chicks instead of books."

Longing for a Hebraic Rat Pack "88 Lines About 44 Women"? Try "Hot Jewish Chicks." Pomp-punk hate speech is directed at "Jews for Jesus," sung, for reasons not immediately apparent, in a self-important British accent. Speaking of which ...

Like nearly everyone else's, Tannenbaum's eyes glazed over (you can hear this over the phone) at what must be called Christopher Hitchens' Talmudic evisceration of Hanukkah earlier this month in Slate.

Still, the broadside is not unwelcome. "It makes me feel that Jews have truly arrived. Jeez, for the last five or six years, everyone on Fox News has been bitching and moaning about the War on Christmas," Tannenbaum observes.

"And that's how you know when you've reached a huge level of popularity, is when people start attacking you."

GLENN DIXON

*Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m., \$19.50; 800-551-7328.*

# This Charming Man

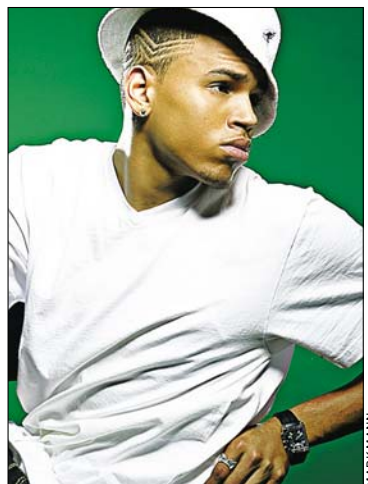
## Singer Chris Brown may be 18, but his fresh style is all-ages

MUSIC | Tickets are still available. We repeat: Tickets are still available. And if you are reading this anywhere near a Ticketmaster outlet, you may want to move.

Are you listening?

That horde of teenage girls — mixed with a few cougars, now that he's 18 and all — stampeding your way is not a daydream. R&B's resident cutie Chris Brown is in the area this weekend. And trampling a few folks to see the heartthrob possibly rip off his shirt — uh, we mean perform — isn't beneath his hopped-up-on-Now-and-Laters following.

He first popped and locked his way from Tappahannock, Va., to



**GOT CHARISMA?** You have, like, two minutes to get Chris Brown tickets. Go!

the top of the charts with the single "Run It" from his 2005 self-titled debut. He's been proving ever since that small-town boys can do big things — especially if

their genes have first pick in the DNA pool. (Just ask Elvis.)

Of course, Brown had help: Who couldn't hit one out of the park with production and songwriting help from the likes of Scott Storch, Jermaine Dupri, Bryan Michael Cox and Dre & Vidal, just to name a few?

But Brown's got his own power — a seductive voice, a high-energy live show, and his dance moves, often touted as Mike-like (when that was a compliment), command any audience's attention.

This "Holiday Tour" stop at the Verizon Center features another heavy-hitting lineup: Bow Wow, Soulja Boy, Shop Boyz and Lil Mama. DARONA WILLIAMS (EXPRESS)

→ *Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW; Sat., 7:30 p.m., \$35.25-\$79.25 800-551-7328. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*

## STAGE | THE REAL STORY



**VINTAGE APPAREL:** Medieval mystery plays told stories from the Bible in a vernacular way, with music, and they don't tend to be solemnly revived the way authored works are. But this month, the Folger Shakespeare Library presents "The Second Shepherd's Play," complete with angel, sheep, music from the Folger Consort and a little lesson about Christmas for all.



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DECEMBER

## BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY

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## PATTI SMITH

Friday, December 28

**THE WORD** - Chris Chew, Cody Dickinson & Luther Dickinson  
(of North Mississippi Allstars), John Medeski, and Robert Randolph..Sa 29

The Greyboy Allstars w/ All Mighty Senators .....Su 30

IT HAD TO HAPPEN... NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE GODFATHER OF GO-GO

## CHUCK BROWN



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Zwei and more! w/ a special performance by Deborah Bond .....F 4

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## Killswitch Engage

w/ Dillinger Escape Plan • Every Time I Die • Parkway Drive.....Th 10

The Silver Beats .....F 11  
*The Japanese Beatles tribute band...as seen with The Killers!*

EDITORS w/ Hot Hot Heat & Louis XIV.....Tu 15

Blonde Redhead w/ School of Seven Bells .....W 16

The Clarks .....F 18

Super Diamond w/ Girlfriend in a Coma (The Smiths Tribute) .....Sa 19

DJ Shadow & Cut Chemist: "The Hard Sell" .....Th 24

Cornelius .....F 25  
*Online ticket purchasers will be sent unique codes for 3 free downloads.*

## BLOWOFF

feat. the DJ SOUNDS of BOB MOULD & RICHARD MOREL 21+ to enter.....Sa 26

Super Furry Animals w/ The Fiery Furnaces & Holy F\*ck .....Su 27

## As I Lay Dying

w/ August Burns Red • Evergreen Terrace • Still Remains .....M 28

MN8 PRESENTS

Lupe Fiasco w/ REEMSTARR .....W 30

FEBRUARY

Hellyeah w/ Machine Head • Nonpoint • Ankla .....Tu 5

Marah w/ Adam and Dave's Bloodline .....Th 7

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# A Treat for Cinephiles

## Rialto Pictures brings Criterion Collection fare to the big screen

**FILM** | As movie buffs warm themselves by the glow of their plasma screens, classic cinema is getting harder to come by in the theater. Over the next few weeks, the AFI Silver presents the best of Rialto Pictures, a distributor that for 10 years has fought to ensure that art-house monuments are seen as they were intended: in public, in the dark, larger than life and without someone phoning every 20 minutes.

This weekend's offerings include "The Third Man," dubbed "probably one of the best, if not the greatest, non-auteur films ever

made" by no less an authority than Peter "I Had a Drink With That Guy" Bogdanovich, high praise indeed from a fellow who drops the names of only the finest. The Bog apparently wasn't pals with the picture's director, but Orson (Welles, of course) told him that Carol Reed needed no help from him.

Although Reed would go on to ignominy with "The Agony and the Ecstasy," in 1949 the journeyman Brit delivered the goods with a suspenseful, atmospheric Euro-noir about an American pulp writer trying to get the goods on a friend's death. Shot largely on location in postwar Vienna, the film is awash in echo and shadow. Dutch tilts, untranslated dialogue and bombed-out swathes of



**A DAME, A FELLA AND A HEIST:** Marie Sabouret and Jean Servais are two of the stars of "Rififi," Jules Dassin's almost excruciatingly tense 1955 crime drama.

wasteland combine to suggest both claustrophobia and a conspiracy that stretches past the hero's comprehension.

Next week, "Rififi" represents the best of Jules Dassin, who would eventually hook up with Melina Mercouri to deliver patronizing corn like "Never on Sunday." But in 1955, he was at the top of his game, fighting to hold on to his career as McCarthyists, having already hounded him from the States, sabotaged projects across Europe. It's no accident that his caper flick, famously built around a wordless half-hour heist sequence, is about getting hard work done in the face of your enemies and under the nose of the authorities.

Starting Saturday afternoon is 1966's "Au Hasard Balthazar," by Robert Bresson. You might not think a slow-paced story about an ill-used donkey would make for one of the most moving experiences in cinema. But then you'd be the ass. **GLENN DIXON**

→ **AFI Silver Theatre**, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; see [afi.com/silver/newforfullschedule](http://afi.com/silver/newforfullschedule), \$6.75-\$9.75; 301-495-6700. (Silver Spring)

# Straight Path; Odd Destination

## Singer Sarah Borges' unique honky-punk began on a worn road

**MUSIC** | If you believe Sarah Borges, her career to date has been one cliché after another. When asked about writing her first album, 2005's "Silver City," the Boston native says, "It was like that old cliché: You have your whole life to write your first record. And it's true. It was me in my bedroom, writing all these songs in my early twenties."

When asked about her band, the Broken Singles, signing with the venerable roots label Sugar Hill, she remarks, "It's like one of those completely cliché stories. You go to South by Southwest in Austin every year, and it's supposed to be this industry hotbed where everybody's getting record deals. And that's actually what happened!"

Nothing about Sarah Borges and



**GIRL GONE WILD:** Borges and her Broken Singles are known for their live shows.

the Broken Singles' music actually sounds cliché, though. Possessed of a striking voice that mixes the best parts of Dolly Parton and Tiffany,

as well as a dynamic stage presence honed from years doing theatre, Borges is a little bit country, a little bit rock 'n' roll and a whole

lot of punk and pop.

Her blend of styles, as well as the energy with which she and the band perform, make her second album, "Diamonds in the Dark," such a crowd-pleaser. Since releasing the album in June, Borges and the Broken Singles have been touring sporadically, heading out for a few weeks at a time and earning a reputation for roof-raising shows.

"It's pretty full-throttle," she says. "We do a lot of climbing on things, jumping up and down, audience participation. Our job is to show people a good time every night. Short of curing cancer, there's nothing that I think you can do for the world that's more important."

**STEPHEN M. DEUSNER**

→ **Iota Club & Café**, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; with Justin Jones and Driving Rain; Thu., 9 p.m., \$12; 703-522-8340. (Clarendon)

## JAZZ | SLOW & LOW



**KEEPING COOL:** For more than 15 years, Marion Meadows has made jazz aficionados swoon with his smooth sax sounds. He'll perform hits from "Dressed to Chill" and "Player's Club" this weekend at Blues Alley.



# It's a Black Christmas

## Johnny Cash's holiday specials mix kitsch and country

DVD | With Johnny Cash firmly established as an American icon, studios are unearthing all sorts of career high- and lowlights for re-release and re-examination, whether the material demands it. Shout! Factory is issuing two Christmas specials from the late 1970s as part of its Country Music Hall of Fame Archives Series. Following the stellar "Johnny Cash Show" set earlier this year, these two DVDs show the Man in Black as the Man in Green and Red.

Filmed at Cash's home outside Nashville, "The Johnny Cash Christmas Special 1976" alter-

nates between kitschy numbers and serious performances, interspersed with shots of the autumnal Tennessee landscape. Exuding warmth and good humor, Cash appears a little stiff at the beginning, when he drives city boy Tony Orlando around the farm singing a goofy medley of Stephen Foster tunes, during which Orlando plays air guitar and air upright bass. It's country kitsch at its finest.

As the party moves indoors for a guitar pull and sing-along, the corniness subsides considerably. Barbara Mandrell's "Steel Guitar



**THE MAN IN GREEN AND RED:** Cash's Christmas shows are peculiarly of their time.

Rag" proves she's as good a picker as a singer, and the Carter Family harmonize as beautifully as ever on

the spooky "In the Pines," which has never struck me as much of a holiday song. Billy Graham ends the

show with a long-winded sermon that uses the Christmas story to promote civil rights and women's lib.

The following year, Cash moved the show to the Grand Ole Opry, and he appears much more comfortable onstage before a large audience than he did on his farm in front of cameras. It helps that his roster of guests is more varied, drawing less from Nashville and more from Memphis. In addition to the Tennessee Three, Sun Studio legends Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison perform their old hits, although only Lewis, perpetually refusing to settle into respectability, puts any vigor into it.

Overdoing the down-home authenticity prized in country music during the 1970s, both of these specials have substantial appeal as kitsch objects and Cash relics that neither detract from nor add to the musician's considerable legacy. As such, they're ideal once-a-year viewing for serious fans and curious revelers alike. **STEPHEN M. DEUSNER**

## Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST'S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK'S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

### 1 | I Am Legend

The joy of the movie is watching the slow unfolding of a 2012 post-apocalyptic New York disaster zone and the last man on Earth, the likable Will Smith, finding a way to live in it.

DESSON THOMSON

### 2 | Alvin and the Chipmunks

Youngsters who love the shrieky singing and don't notice the tapioca of the story will probably get their money's worth. Parents: Bring earplugs.

STEPHEN HUNTER

### 3 | The Golden Compass

This movie simply delivers too many colorfults for its own good, none of whom establish a true emotional identity, and thus it isn't moving; it's busy.

STEPHEN HUNTER

### 4 | Enchanted

Disney performs a neat trick of satiric jujitsu with this charming family comedy that celebrates the princess cult it invented while skewering its most saccharin conventions. **ANN HORNADAY**



**ALONE TIME:** Will Smith plays survivor Robert Neville in the thriller "I Am Legend."

### 5 | No Country for Old Men

This high-end literary thriller, derived from an ultra-violent Cormac McCarthy novel, traffics as much in ideas as in thrills, sometimes to its own detriment. **STEPHEN HUNTER**

### 6 | The Perfect Holiday

Billed as a Christmas movie featuring Queen Latifah, this crass seasonal flick features only enough of its nominal star to avoid being sued by bait-and-switched filmgoers. **ANN HORNADAY**

### 7 | Fred Claus

Vince Vaughn spends most of his time as a bitter creep, brother to Paul Giamatti's Santa. **STEPHEN HUNTER**

### 8 | This Christmas

In "This Christmas," all the children come home to roost — and so do the chickens. The film doesn't idealize, and that makes it ideal. **STEPHEN HUNTER**

### 9 | Atonement

Director Joe Wright uses a full cinematic palette to create a film that works both as a sweeping, old-fashioned wartime romance and a subtle meditation on narrative, truth and art. **ANN HORNADAY**

### 10 | August Rush

Intended as a fuzzy family fable, "August" plays more to the gag reflex than to the heart. **DESSON THOMSON**

## Indies&Arties

### 'Behind Enemy Lines'

The United States Navy Memorial is much more than a Metro stop, some flags and the "lone sailor" statue — there's a museum tucked away in the Naval Heritage Center, and oh, yeah, there's a Naval Heritage Center. This weekend, the USNM presents its last film of the year relating to all things U.S. Navy. Saturday's free screening is of the 2003 Owen Wilson-starring combat movie "Behind Enemy Lines."

→ U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL HERITAGE CENTER, BURKE THEATER, 701 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. NW; 3 P.M., FREE; 202-737-2300, NAVYMEMORIAL.ORG.

### 'Fully Awake'

It doesn't show up on Playboy's list of the country's top party schools, but Black Mountain College is the progressive institution that showcased some of the greatest American art of last century — from John Cage events to the geodesic dome. "Fully Awake: Black Mountain College" is a documentary that uses archival images and interviews to tell its story.

The film screens in conjunction with "Let the World In: Prints by Robert Rauschenberg."



Misa Shimizu and Kuji Yakusho in "Warm Water Under a Red Bridge."

→ NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, 600 CONSTITUTION AVE. NW; SUN., 2 P.M., ALSO DEC. 27 & 28, 1 P.M.; FREE; 202-842-6799. (ARCHIVES-NAVY MEMORIAL)

### Holiday Antidote

AFI Silver is running its Christmas chestnuts — "A Christmas Story," "The Muppet Christmas Carol" and "It's a Wonderful Life" — all weekend, but if you've overdosed on holiday cheer, check out one of the weirdest films ever made. The Shohei Imamura retrospective carries on with a screening of "Warm Water Under a Red Bridge," a tender, touching love story about ... let's put it this way: Once you see it, the title will make sense. If the title makes sense now, you're weird.

→ AFI SILVER, 8633 COLESVILLE ROAD, SILVER SPRING; SUN., 1 P.M.; 301-495-6700. (SILVER SPRING)



# The Scene

## Sound

### → THURSDAY

**Apex:** "College Night," DJ Randy White, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., \$5, free with college ID.

**Bangkok Blues:** Songwriters Association of Washington, 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10.

**Black Cat:** The Hold Up, Brandon Butler, 9 p.m., \$8 (backstage).

**Blues Alley:** Marion Meadows, 8 & 10 p.m., \$25.

**Bohemian Caverns:** Sound of the City, 9 p.m., free.

**Crossroads:** "Jamaica Me Crazy Happy Hour," live reggae, ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.

**DC9:** Drop Electric, Red Ink, District Digital, 9 p.m., \$8.

**Iota:** Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles, Justin Jones, Driving Rain, 9 p.m., \$12.

**Jammin' Java:** Surprise! Arizona, You Me and Everyone We Know, Chelsea Grin, 8 p.m., \$10.

**Jaxx:** Hatebreed, Agnostic Front, God Forbid, Necro, At All Cost, Thy Will Be Done, Catalepsy, Authors of Ruin, 4 p.m., \$25 (\$23 in advance).

**Kennedy Center:** The Worldwinds Ensemble, 6 p.m., free. NSO: Handel's Messiah, 7 p.m., \$20-\$80. St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., \$50.

**Mirrors:** "Phat Thursdays," 9 p.m., \$10 for men, ladies free.

**The Red & the Black:** King Bella, Savory James, the Matrimonials, 9 p.m., \$8.

**Rock and Roll Hotel:** "Trailer Trash Night" with DJ Chris Price, 8 p.m., free.

**Twins Jazz:** Alex Pinto Quartet, 9 & 11 p.m., \$20.

**Zanzibar:** "Familiar Faces," 7 p.m., see zanzibar-otw.com.

### → FRIDAY

**Apex:** "Ultimate Dance Party," 9 p.m., \$9.

**Bangkok Blues:** Eat at Joes, 7 p.m. Ham-bone Wilson, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

**Birchmere:** Good for the Jews, 7:30 p.m., \$19.50.

**Black Cat:** Velvet (CD release), New Rock Church of Fire (CD release), Mas y Mas, Hammer No More the Fingers, 9 p.m., \$10. "Peppermint," dance party with DJ Milk, 9:30 p.m., \$5.

**Blues Alley:** Marion Meadows, 8 & 10 p.m., \$25.

**Bohemian Caverns:** Trio Taq, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15.

**Crossroads:** Escape Friday Happy Hour &

### DANCE | OLD NUT, NEW SHELL



**HISTORY WITH A LIFT:** Septime Webre relocates the "Nutcracker" story to the early days of D.C. for the Washington Ballet's production of this annual favorite. The "Coffee" divertissement, for example, becomes a pas de deux for an Anacostian man and woman. "The Nutcracker" is at the Warner Theatre through Sunday.

### LOCAL HEROES | SWEET AND SOUR



**SMOOTH MOVES:** Velvet sounds gentle but plays hard. The post-punk quartet mashes up grinding riffs and gorgeous melodies and filters it through twentysomething angst. Feel their pain — and help celebrate the release of "Well Thought Out and Well Planned" — at the Black Cat on Friday.

Dance Party with Kurt Riley, 5 p.m., \$20, ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.

**DC9:** "Liberation Dance Party," 9 p.m., \$6.

**Iota:** Last Train Home, 9 p.m., \$13.

**Jammin' Java:** Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun, 8 p.m., \$20.

**Jaxx:** Aces Wylde, Divine Chaos, 6 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance). Evick, the Gypsy Sons, Seven From Sunday, 8:45 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance).

**Kennedy Center:** The Junkyard Saints, 6 p.m., free. NSO: Handel's "Messiah," 7 p.m., \$20-\$80.

**Mirrors:** Lissen Band, 7 p.m., \$20 for men, ladies free before 8 p.m., \$15 after.

**9:30 Club:** Rufus Wainwright, Lucy Wainwright Roche, 8 p.m., \$35.

**The Red & the Black:** Lazybitch, Imperial China, Sun Tornado, Prisoner's Dilemma, 9 p.m., \$8.

**Rock and Roll Hotel:** Happy FKX-Xmas

with See-I, Mat the Alien, Fort Knox Five, Slant & Bjoo, Rex Riddem, 8 p.m., \$10. "Re:sonance," punk and Britpop with DJs Michael Darpino, Chris Diamond, 9:30 p.m., free.

**Twins Jazz:** Antonio Parker, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15.

### → SATURDAY

**Apex:** Kristina Kelly and the Girls of Glamour, DJ Joey-O, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., \$9.

**Bangkok Blues:** Big Leroy Foster, 7 p.m. Blues Condition, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

**Birchmere:** Good for the Jews, 7:30 p.m., \$19.50.

**Black Cat:** The Hackensaw Boys, These United States, John Bustine, 9 p.m., \$10. "Bliss," indie, club, Britpop with DJ Will Eastman, 9 p.m., \$6 (backstage).

**Blues Alley:** Marion Meadows,

*Continued on E13*

## venues

**Apex:** 1415 22nd St. NW; 202-296-0505.

**Bangkok Blues:** 926 W. Broad St., Falls Church; 703-534-0095.

**Birchmere Music Hall:** 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-549-7500.

**Black Cat:** 1811 14th St. NW; 202-667-

7960.

**Blues Alley:** 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-4141.

**Bohemian Caverns:** 2001 11th St. NW; 202-299-0800.

**Crossroads:** 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg, Md.; 301-927-1056.

**DC9:** 1940 9th St. NW; 202-483-5000.

**Iota Club & Café:** 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-522-8340.

**Jammin' Java:** 227 Maple Ave., Vienna; 703-255-1566.

**Jaxx:** 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield; 703-569-5940.

**Kennedy Center:** 2700 F St. NW; 800-444-1324.

**Mirrors:** 33 New York Ave. NE; 202-326-0774.

**9:30 Club:** 815 V St. NW; 202-393-0930.

**The Red & the Black:** 1212 H St. NE; 202-399-3201.

**Rock and Roll Hotel:** 1353 H St. NE; 202-388-7625.

**Twins Jazz:** 1344 U St. NW; 202-234-0072.

**Velvet Lounge:** 915 U St. NW; 202-462-3213.

**Zanzibar:** 700 Water St. SW; 202-554-9100.



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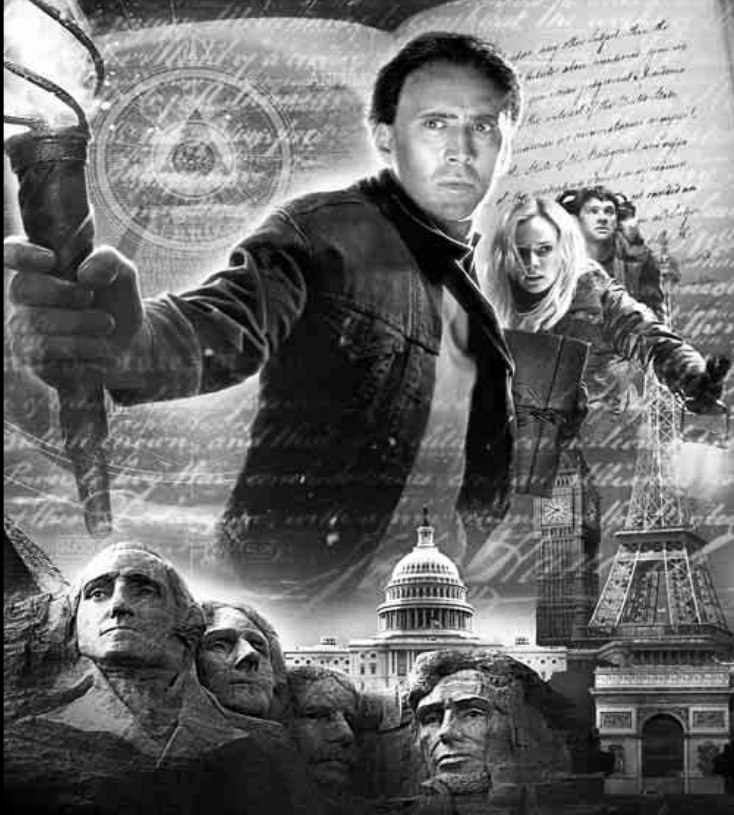
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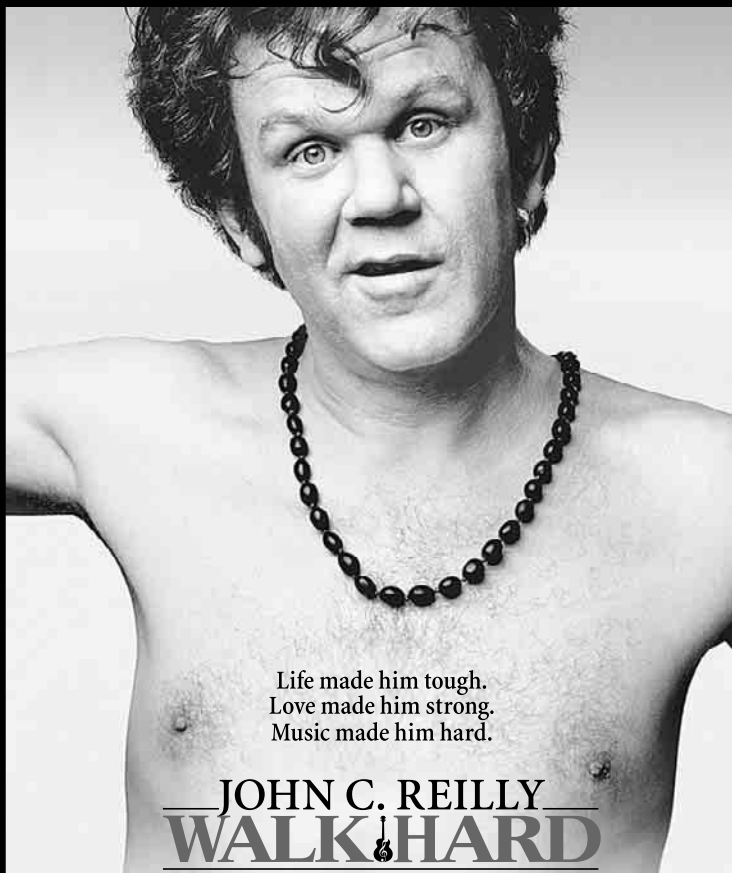
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# Entertainment | WeekendPass

## TheScene

Continued from E11

8 &amp; 10 p.m., \$25.

**Bohemian Caverns:** Cynda Williams, W.E.S. Group, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15.

**Constitution Hall:** United States Navy Band, 7:30 p.m., free.

**Crossroads:** "DJ SuperSlic Annual Birthday Bash," with DJs Crown Prince, Tha Vibz, Shiloh Int'l, Hazzard, Black Spider, 10 p.m., \$15.

**DC9:** Caverns, Rosetta Stoned, the Nun-chucks, 9 p.m., \$10.

**Iota:** Last Train Home, Ben Arnold,

### FAMILY | THE WHITE STUFF



COURTESY CLASSIKA THEATRE

**COOL KID:** Julia Tasheva created the puppets for and co-directs (along with Lilia Slavova) "The Snow Child," Classika Theatre's whimsical staging of a dark fairy tale about a childless couple and a baby made of snow.

9 p.m., \$13.

**Jammin' Java:** "Holidays in Harmony," with One Horse Town, 7 p.m., \$10. Bandazian, Stephanie's ID, Sparky's Flaw, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

**Jaxx:** Molly Hatchet, John Nilson, Road-ucks, Jimbo Manion Group, Southern Fury, Shotgun Ride, 7 p.m., \$25 (\$22 in advance).

**Kennedy Center:** The Washington Chorus: Music for Christmas, 1 p.m., \$15-\$55. The Choral Arts Society of Washington: Family Christmas Concert, 2 & 4 p.m., \$20-\$30. Master Chorale of Washington: Christmas Candlelight Concert, 4 p.m., \$20-\$69. Gospel Celebration:

Continued on E14

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# WeekendPass Entertainment

## TheScene

Continued from E13

Isaiah D. Thomas/Elements of Praise, 6 p.m., free. NSO: Handel's "Messiah," 8 p.m., \$20-\$80.

**9:30 Club:** Rufus Wainwright, Lucy Wainwright Roche, 8 p.m., \$35.

**The Red & the Black:** Chet Vincent and the Big Bend, Hi Ho Six Shooter, Danke, Jason Mogavero, 9 p.m., \$8.

**Twins Jazz:** The Marty Nau Quartet, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15.

**Velvet Lounge:** Flex Matthews, 9 p.m., \$10.

**Zanzibar:** "Reggae on the Waterfront," free before 9 p.m.

### → SUNDAY

**Bangkok Blues:** Blues Jam with Acme Blues Co., 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10.

**Black Cat:** Marfa, Farewell Republic, the Shakes, 9 p.m., \$8 (backstage).

**Birchmere:** Todd Rundgren Band, 7:30 p.m., \$35.

**Blues Alley:** Marion Meadows, 8 & 10 p.m., \$25.

**Bohemian Caverns:** Cynda Williams, W.E.S. Group, 7 p.m., \$15.

**Crossroads:** "Dancehall Sundays," ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.

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**Iota:** Last Train Home, 2 p.m., \$12. Jon Carroll Band, Billy Coulter Band, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

**Jammin' Java:** Elizabeth, Phil and Chris, 6 p.m., \$12. Todd Wright's Fifth Annual Santa-Claus-ter-f\*\*k! Christmas Spectacular, 9 p.m., \$10.

**Jaxx:** I Saw a Ghost, Ocean End, Starlit Eyes, Stereo Awakening, Jason and the Argonauts, the Automatics, Armorette, Dreaming in Crimson, Penance, 3 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance).

**Kennedy Center:** NSO: Handel's "Messiah," 1 p.m., \$20-\$80. Prelude, 6 p.m., free. The Choral Arts Society of Washington: Christmas Music, \$15-\$65.

**The Red and the Black:** Legend of the

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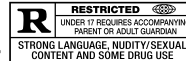
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# Entertainment **WeekendPass**

## GALLERY | THE NATURAL WORLD



COURTESY A.A.A.S.

**WE'RE BEING BUGGED:** The Gallery of the American Association for the Advancement of Science brings the outdoors in this winter with an exhibit of paintings and sculptures ripped from the back yard. Insects, leaves and rocks are the subjects of the shows "Unseen Worlds" and "Nature Magnified" at the AAAS' 1200 New York Ave. gallery.

## TheScene

Bat, 9 p.m., \$8.

**Zanzibar:** "Day Fete" and "Lime," free before 9 p.m., \$10 after.

## Sight

### The Alexandria Black History

**Museum:** "God Has Made a Way in Leesburg," the photographs of Allen D. Carter, through Jan. 20. 902 Wythe St., Alexandria; 703-838-4356, alexblackhistory.org.

### Arlington Arts Center:

"Hope and Fear," works showing concern for the environment, through Jan. 19. "Winter Solos," three solo exhibitions by Jennifer Levonian, Joe Mannino and Young Kim, through Jan. 19. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, arlingtonartscenter.org.

### The Art League Gallery:

"Dark Matters," black-and-white photography by Frank Fierstein, through Jan. 7. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-683-1780.

### ARTiculate Gallery:

"Around the World and Back," this youth-run art gallery features works centering on travel. 1100 16th St. NW; 202-296-9100, wvsarts.org.

**Athenaeum Gallery:** "Wild Imagination," works by self-taught Southern artists, through Jan. 27. 202 Prince St., Alexandria; 703-548-0035, nvfaa.org.

**Corcoran Gallery of Art:** "Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005,"

through Jan. 12. "Ansel Adams," 125 photographs from Adams' Lane Collection, through Jan. 27. "Impressionism, Realism,

*Continued on E20*

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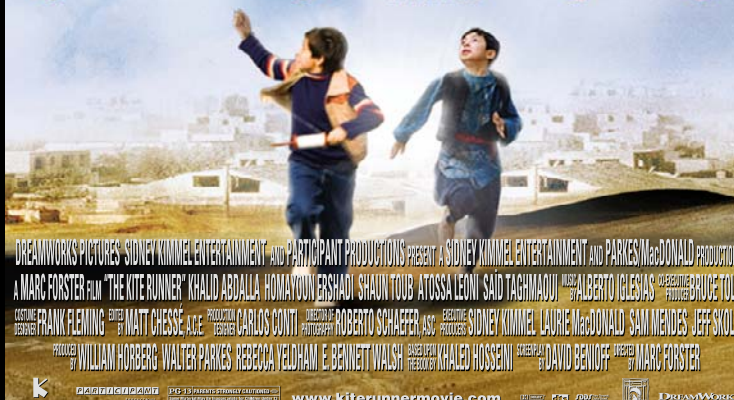
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**DRUM RITUAL**  
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## REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

**GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14**  
701 Seventh St NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - DP MIDNITE (PG) ★  
AMX EXCLUSIVE: THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13) ★ 7:00 PM  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★ 11:59 PM  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (1145 1230 115 145 245) 345 415 445 615  
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (1200 100) 330 430 630 735 930 1030  
OC: THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1210 230 455 710 935) 340 1000  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1155 1250 240) 610 720 910  
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 220) 650 940  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (110) 410 730 1015  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (515 750 1005)  
ENCHANTED (PG) (1240) 350 700 940  
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (130 440) 740 1020  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (140) 925  
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR - MIDNITE (PG-13) (1159) 515  
P.S. I LOVE YOU - MIDNITE (PG-13) (1159) 515  
SWEENEY TODD - MIDNITE (PG-13) (1159) 515  
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY - MIDNITE (R) - ID REQ'D (1159) 515 PM

**BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12**  
Glebe Rd, Arlington 800-FANDANGO 377#

I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (120 150 220 410 440 510) 700 730 800  
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (200 450) 745 1030  
ATONEMENT (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 310 340) 710 740 1010  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (100 130 400 430) 650 720 935  
ENCHANTED (PG) (125 405) 640 925  
BEOWULF (PG-13) (415) 1015  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (210 500) 750 1035  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (305) 645 1025  
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (115) 715

**BOWIE STADIUM 14**  
15200 Major Lanesdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (100 145 215 300 330 415 500 545) 615  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (100 200 315 430 530) 645 745  
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (130 230 430 530) 715 800 945 1030  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (115 200 400 500) 730 815 1000  
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (115 400) 915  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (145 445) 730 1015  
ENCHANTED (PG) (145 415) 700 930  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (100 330 545) 890 1045  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★ (1159) 515 PM

**BETHESDA 10**  
7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (100 220 250 340 455 540) 645 730 815  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (230 445) 700 915  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (205 300 440 530) 715 800 950  
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (500) 1025  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (100 345) 730 1020  
ENCHANTED (PG) (300 530) 800 1030  
FRED CLAU (PG) (100 330 545) 890 1045  
BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R) - ID REQ'D (230) 745  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★ 11:59 PM  
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR - MIDNITE (PG-13) 11:59 PM  
P.S. I LOVE YOU - MIDNITE (PG-13) 11:59 PM  
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY - MIDNITE (R) - ID REQ'D 11:59 PM  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (100 445) 830

**POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16**  
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - DP MIDNITE (PG) ★  
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY - MIDNITE (R) - ID REQ'D 12:00 AM  
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR - MIDNITE (PG-13) 12:00 AM  
P.S. I LOVE YOU - MIDNITE (PG-13) 12:00 AM  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (1240 110 150 230 330 400 440 520) 620  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (120 200 350 430) 630 700 900

PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (140 240 410 510) 640 740 930 1030  
OC: THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (435) 1015  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1245 145 335) 625 725 915  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (210 500) 750 1040  
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (230 530) 830  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (100 340) 610 840  
ENCHANTED (PG) (130 420) 710 950  
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (125 415) 720  
FRED CLAU (PG) (205) 615  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (450) 820

**COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20**  
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (1145 1230 130 200 300 400  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (1200 110 140 210 250 350 420 450 530)  
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (630 700 730 800 920 950 1020 1040)  
OC: THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1140 215 510) 740 1005  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1220 120 220 320 520) 620 720  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (240 540) 810 1045  
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (1215 315) 635  
ENCHANTED (PG) (1150 100 230 330 440) 610 710 850 955  
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (145 415) 650  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (150 500) 750 1030  
FRED CLAU (PG) (1240 340) 625 915  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 445) 830  
BEE MOVIE (PG) (115 345) 615 840  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★ 11:59 PM

**ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13**  
Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (115 200 330 415 500) 630 715 800 915  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (200 430) 700 930  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1245 145 345 445) 645 745 930  
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 315 530) 815 1035  
ENCHANTED (PG) (130 405) 645 920  
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (430) 730  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (100 400) 700 945  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (145) 1015  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 715 1015  
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (215 500) 745  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (100 445) 830

**FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10**  
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
I AM LEGEND - DP (PG-13) ★ (130 410) 700 950  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (1140 1215 1245 210 250 330 450 520)  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (630 730 800 920 1020 1050)  
ENCHANTED (PG) (1150 1250 220 320 440) 640  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D 720 910 940  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1230 200 340 430) 620 710 800  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 740 1030  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (225) 850 1010

**GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14**  
20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (130 215 300 415 500 545) 700 745 830  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (130 230 400 500) 645 745 930  
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (200 430) 715 1000  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (115 230 515) 700 800 1040  
OC: THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (415) 945  
ENCHANTED (PG) (200 430) 715 950  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (100 420) 710 940  
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (100 420) 710 940  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (145 440) 730 1015  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (245 515) 815 1040  
BEOWULF (PG-13) (145 440) 800 1040  
FRED CLAU (PG) (110 350) 645

**UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14**  
9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (1245 300 530) 1025  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (100 145 230 345 430 515) 630 715 800  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (115 215 400) 645 745  
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 345) 700 1000  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (130 415) 715 1015  
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (145 430) 730 1010  
ENCHANTED (PG) (200 445) 730 1005  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 400) 645 930  
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (130 500) 830  
BEE MOVIE (PG) (200 445) 745  
OC: THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (500) 1030  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★ 11:59 PM  
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR - MIDNITE (PG-13) 11:59 PM  
SWEENEY TODD - MIDNITE (R) - ID REQ'D 11:59 PM  
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY - MIDNITE (R) - ID REQ'D 11:59 PM

**MANASSAS STADIUM 14**  
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

**Adv. Tix on Sale** NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (NR) ★  
**Adv. Tix on Sale** HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★  
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS - MIDNITE (PG) ★  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (1130 1200 100 200 230 340 430 500) 700  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (730 800 935 1005 1025)  
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (1140 1215 155 240 410 455)  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1145 210 440) 750 1010  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (1245 405) 710 955  
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (400) 1020  
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (105) 740  
ENCHANTED (PG) (1150 220 505) 745 1015  
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (1230 330)  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 345) 705 955  
FRED CLAU (PG) (1225 315) 650 930

Times @20:20/07 Bargain Matinees In ( ) OC= Open Captioned DA= Descriptive Audio Available DP= Digital Projection \* Pass/Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply

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## AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22

Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria  
703-998-4AMC

**DIGITAL 3D**  
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35

### SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) / 12:01 AM

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) / 1:45, 3:15, 4:55, 5:45, 7:35, 8:15, 10:00

I AM LEGEND (PG13) / 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:50, 10:30

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 1:50, 3:10, 4:35, 5:55, 7:10, 8:50, 9:45

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) / 1:25, 2:20, 3:20, 4:20, 5:20, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:20

AWAKE (R) 1:05, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05, 10:25

AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:35, 7:25

ENCHANTED (PG) 1:30, 2:50, 4:05, 5:35, 6:50, 8:10

HITMAN (R) 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40

THE MIST (R) 1:55, 4:50, 7:45

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:40, 4:00, 5:40, 7:20, 8:40, 10:15

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) / 2:40, 5:40, 8:40

FRED CLAU (PG) 4:25, 10:10

AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 7:50

BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:10, 4:45

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05

## AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.  
703-998-4AMC

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) / 2:30, 4:40, 7:00

HITMAN (R) 3:20

THE MIST (R) 5:30

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 3:40, 6:40

FRED CLAU (PG) 4:00

ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (PG13) 2:35, 5:10

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 4:30, 7:30

THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:00

GONE BABY GONE (R) 2:50, 5:25, 8:10

## MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo  
301-324-4220

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:00, 10:15

I AM LEGEND (PG13) 12:30, 1:30, 2:10, 3:10, 4:10, 5:00, 6:05, 7:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:50

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 12:05, 1:35, 2:30, 4:05, 5:05, 6:30, 7:30, 8:00, 10:00

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55

ENCHANTED (PG) 1:10, 3:50, 6:20, 8:55

HITMAN (R) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

THE MIST (R) 4:15, 8:45

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15

BEE MOVIE (PG) 12:25, 2:35, 4:50

TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG13) 1:25, 7:05

## LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7

2772 South Randolph  
703-671-0910 801

ATONEMENT (R) 1:30, 2:20, 4:10, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50

MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R) 2:00, 4:10, 7:40

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30

LARS AND THE REAL GIRL (PG13) 4:30

INTO THE WILD (R) 1:30, 7:10

MY KID COULD PAINT THAT (PG13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:20

## LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5

North Bethesda  
1-800-FANDANGO #741

I AM LEGEND (PG13) 1:50, 4:35, 7:15

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:00

ENCHANTED (PG) 1:40, 4:15, 7:10

FRED CLAU (PG) 2:00, 4:25

LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 7:05

AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 6:40

BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:15, 4:20

## AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway  
703-998-4AMC

**DIGITAL 3D**  
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

### DIGITAL PRESENTATION

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) 12:01 AM

### SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) 12:01 AM

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) 12:01 AM

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13) 12:01 AM

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35

I AM LEGEND (PG13) 12:50, 2:00, 3:30, 4:40, 6:10, 7:20, 8:50, 10:00, 12:01

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) 1:10, 2:20, 3:55, 5:05, 6:40, 7:50, 9:25, 10:30

AWAKE (R) 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10, 10:20

AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

ENCHANTED (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

HITMAN (R) 7:10, 9:45

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) / 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40

FRED CLAU (PG) 1:50, 4:30

AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 6:15, 9:35

BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:20, 3:50

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R) 12:01 AM

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:35, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:35, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:35, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:35, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:35, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20

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NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:35, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:35, 3:25, 6:30, 9:20

## AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886  
703-998-4262

**DIGITAL 3D**  
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15

### SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) / 12:01 AM

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) / 12:01 AM

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13) / 12:01 AM

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13) / 12:01 AM

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) / 12:01 AM

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) / 2:00, 2:50, 4:30, 5:20, 6:55, 7:40, 8:15, 10:00

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) / 2:00, 4:30, 6:55, 9:15

I AM LEGEND (PG13) / 1:20, 2:20, 3:40, 4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 9:50

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 1:50, 3:00, 4:20, 5:30, 6:45, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) 1:30, 2:15, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:15, 7:05, 7:45, 9:00, 9:45

AWAKE (R) 2:25, 4:50, 7:05, 9:30

AUGUST RUSH (PG) 10:10 PM

ENCHANTED (PG) 2:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15

HITMAN (R) 2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:15, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05

FRED CLAU (PG) 1:40, 4:35, 7:20

AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 6:10, 9:35

BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:25, 3:50

ATONEMENT (R) / 12:01 AM

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R) / 12:01 AM

THE KITE RUNNER (PG13) / 12:01 AM

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## express



## movie showtimes

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ENCHANTED (PG)  
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50  
THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG)  
(!) 12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13)  
(!) 11:40, 12:00, 2:15, 2:35, 4:50, 5:20, 7:40, 8:00  
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  
(!) 12:00, 2:35, 5:20, 8:00  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13)  
(!) 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13)  
11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50  
THE MIST (R)  
11:40, 2:25  
HITMAN (R)  
5:15, 7:40

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!  
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  
3:10, 5:10, 7:25  
ENCHANTED (PG)  
3:00, 5:15, 7:35  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13)  
2:30, 5:00, 7:30

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM  
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R)  
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10  
THE KITE RUNNER (PG-13)  
12:40, 1:40, 3:45, 5:15, 7:00, 8:15, 9:45  
ATONEMENT (R)  
12:30, 1:15, 3:30, 4:10, 6:45, 7:15, 9:50, 10:00  
JUNO (PG-13)  
12:45, 1:45, 3:05, 4:15, 5:25, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:05  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)  
1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 9:40

P&G OLD GREENBELT  
301-474-9744  
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NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)  
5:00, 7:30  
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**THE BEASTS OF THE SEA:** D'Acqua's decadent display promises fishy holiday fun seven ways for the enterprising diner.

# Fishing for Cheer

## Local restaurants cook up Christmas with an Italian accent

SEE FOOD | A feast featuring seven types of seafood may seem excessive. Yet in the final days before Christmas, the Feast of the Seven Fishes is exactly what's featured at several area restaurants in celebration of the holiday, Italian-style.

All across the Old Country, eschewing meat before Christmas Day means savoring dishes such as anchovy lasagna in Piedmont, cod ravioli in Parma and fried eel in Naples.

Though eel and anchovy may not be centerpieces on local holiday menus, D.C. chefs offer opportunities to embrace tradition for the faithful and the excuse for non-Catholics to indulge in the day's catch.

All month long, chef Enzo Fabbraro at D'Acqua is preparing dishes from his Italian childhood, an eight-course tasting menu — seven fish dishes and a dessert — for \$75, including ostrica al tartufo (pan-fried oysters and black truffles with a prosecco-flavored sauvignon), strozzapreti (seafood ragout in a lobster-cream reduction) and black-fin tuna salad with cannellini bean and red onion.

At Hook, Barton Seaver offers a stylish feast on Christmas Eve, a seven-course tasting menu for \$65 a person, \$125 with wine pairings. The first course features a trout roe with creme fraiche, cava and brioche. Later courses showcase escabeche and house-cured sardines, and tuna with nutmeg and mint.

From Dec. 20 through 24, Dino chef Stephan Boillon will serve a feast including zuppa de pesce with fin and shellfish, giant ravi-

oli of scallop and artichokes drizzled with truffle butter in his five-course tasting menu for \$59, with wine pairings at \$27 and \$55.

The Grille at Morrison House's Dennis Marron offers a decadent Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve for \$90, which includes Kumamoto oysters with juniper "air" and apple caviar, lobster and salt code brandade, and braised monkfish with white bean ragout.

We're excited about the Port wine snow-cone intermezzo, too.

MELISSA MCCART (EXPRESS)

→ **D'Acqua**, 801 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-783-7717.

→ **Hook**, 3241 M St. NW; 202-625-4488.

→ **Dino**, 3435 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-686-2966.

→ **The Grille at the Morrison House**, 116 S. Alfred St., Alexandria; 703-838-8000.

## ? ASK A CHEF

**Q** | What is your favorite holiday indulgence?



► **Sam Adams Utopia.** It's like a fine sherry, but it's a beer. This one allows me to expand the preconceived notions of what beer is. It can be used in a savory dish or in something like a chocolate truffle. It's expensive; I've seen it go for \$190 to \$270. But it's just good!

— CHEF FRANK MORALES, RUSTICO



# WeekendPass

## Eating Around

### START 'EM EARLY

#### 'Garçon, This Macaroni and Cheese Is Less Than Fresh'

Kids who know the difference between gnocchi and gnudi will enjoy the children's tasting menu at Cafe 15 in the Sofitel Lafayette Square this New Year's Eve, where they'll be taken through the rounds, from the amuse bouche to a pastry chef gourmandise. Savory courses include butternut squash soup, smoked trout Caesar salad and three-cheese tortellini. Dinner is \$50 per child. (MELISSA MCCART)

→ 806 15th St. NW; 202-730-8700.



PHILIPPE PIEL/CAFE 15

Get children interested in such treats as salmon with Cafe 15's pint-size menu.

where bar manager Dan Warri-low features the chocolate Mandarin holiday martini made with Absolut Mandarin vodka, simple syrup, bittersweet chocolate syrup and a dash of Grand Marnier. Who needs candy when you can drink this? (MM)

→ 1625 I St. NW; 202-689-8999.

### CHOCOLATE + ALCOHOL Two Great Tastes

For a festive holiday cocktail, revelers with a sweet tooth may want to saddle up to the bar at BLT Steak,

### » WHAT'S EATING YOU?

Please send press releases, photos and food to [dining@readexpress.com](mailto:dining@readexpress.com).



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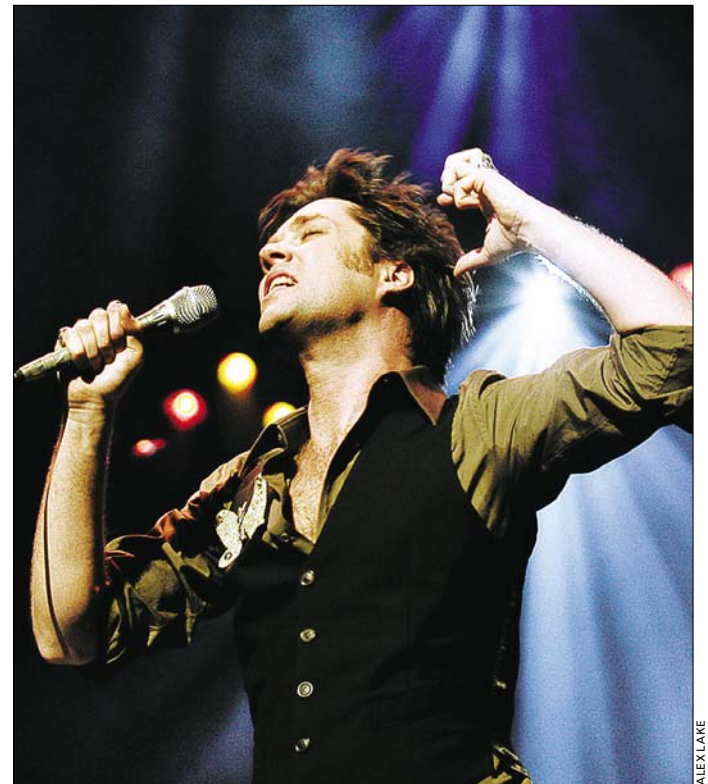
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# WeekendPass

**ROCK** | TORCH BEARER


ALEX LAKE

**NO MORE DRAMA. WELL, A LITTLE:** What doesn't Rufus Wainwright have? He's in possession of huge talent, great personal style and enough angst to supply an entire season of story lines on "Gossip Girl." He comes to the 9:30 Club this weekend for what promises to be a dramatic two-night run.

## TheScene

Continued from E15

**Modernism: Works on Paper From the American Collection,** more than 50 etchings, watercolors, drawings, lithographs and pastels, through Sun. 500 I7th St. NW; 202-639-1700, corcoran.org.

**LAST CHANCE Curator's Office:**

"Common Ground," works by Kathryn Cornelius, through Sat. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-387-1008, curatorsoffice.com.

**District Fine Arts:** "Hit Me With Music," a group show of paintings, sculptures and photos featuring images of musicians, through Feb. 2. 1639 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-3545, dfaonline.com.

**Ellipse Art Center:** "The Narrative Figure," contemporary works on paper and in clay, through Jan. 19, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington; 703-228-7710, arlingtonarts.org.

**Folger Shakespeare Library:** "Marketing Shakespeare: The Boydell Gallery and Beyond" explores the birth of the Shakespeare market in England, through Jan. 5. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

**Freer Gallery of Art:** "Tales of the Brush: Literary Masterpieces in Chinese Painting," the confluence of writing and painting.

## Friday in

*The Washington Post* | Weekend Section


**Going Up:** Rising star rapper Soulja Boy joins Chris Brown and Lil Mama at the Verizon Center. | *Music Makers*

→ Also, Nicolas Cage on "National Treasure: The Book of Secrets"; Nark Kara in Bethesda; a New Year's Eve roundup.

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## TheScene

ing in Chinese culture, through Jan. 13. Jefferson Drive & 12th Street SW; 202-633-4880, asia.si.edu.

**Gallery Plan B:** "Group Show," features works priced less than \$500, through Dec. 30. 1530 14th St. NW; 202-234-2711, galleryplanb.com.

**Goethe Institut:** "Muslim Women in Germany," photography depicting aspects of Muslim life in Germany, through Feb. 29. 812 7th St. NW; 202-289-1200.

**H & F Fine Arts:** "Deep Ellum and Acceptable Detours," Andrew Krieger examines the disconnect between humans and nature, through Jan. 19. "Memebiotics," Andrew Au incorporates science and biomechanics into his prints and drawings, through Jan. 19. 3311 Rhode Island Ave., Mount Rainier; 301-887-0080, hffinearts.com.

**LAST CHANCE Hemphill Gallery:** "Mindless Pleasures," James Huckenhahler's 3-D digital renderings. "Furnishing the Self — Upholstering the Soul," David Byrne explores the majesty of the chair through photography, embroidery and sculptures, both through Sat. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, hemphillfinearts.com.

**LAST CHANCE Hillyer Art Space:** "Which Came First? Drawing Conclusions," glasswork by Kari Minnick, through Thu. 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-338-0680, artsandartists.org/artspace/.

**Hirshhorn Museum:** "Morris Louis Now: An American Master Revisited," a concise view of the artist's career, through Jan. 6. Independence Avenue & 7th Street SW; 202-633-4674, hirshhorn.si.edu.

**Honfleur Gallery:** "Die Umwelt," a solo exhibit by Arie Mandelbaum, through Jan. 12. 1241 Good Hope Road SE; 202-889-5000, honfleurgallery.com.

**Irvine Contemporary:** "Saturnalia," a celebration of different gallery artists, through Jan. 5. 1412 14th St. NW; 202-332-8767, irvinecontemporary.com.

**Jane Haslem Gallery:** "Conjunction," new media prints and etchings by various artists, through Feb. 15. 2025 Hillyer Place NW; 202-232-4644, janehaslemgallery.com.

**The Jerusalem Fund Gallery:** "Bethlehem Under Siege: The Decline of Christianity at Its Birthplace," photographs and video of modern-day Bethlehem, through Jan. 11. 2425 Virginia Ave. NW; 202-338-1958, thejerusalemfund.com/gallery.

**Katzen Art Center:** "Abu Ghraib," Fernando Botero responds to the Abu Ghraib incidents with his paintings, through Dec. 30. "Jules Olitski: Late Sculpture," from the Cyclops series, through

## STAGE | STORM AHEAD



**BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES:** Weather may be the theater's most useful metaphor for characters' psychological or emotional state, but the hurricane trapping the folks in "The House of Yes" together doesn't do justice to the level of nutso behavior on display. The Washington Shakespeare Company's production of Wendy McLeod's deliciously demented black comedy is running in repertory with Alan Bennett's "Kafka's Dick" at the Clark Street Playhouse through Jan. 13.

## GALLERY | HOME WORK



**GET YOUR OWN:** Never thought of yourself as an art collector? Nevin Kelly Gallery makes it easy with its "Affordable Art Show." Through Dec. 30, exquisite works by local artists including Mary Chiamonte, above, Laurel Hausler, Joan Belmar, Elyn Weiss and others are going for a song.

Dec. 30. "Claiming Space: Some American Feminist Originators" features works from early feminist artists, through Jan. 27. "Dark Metropolis: Irving Norman's Social Surrealism," images of the horrors of war, through Jan. 27. "Sculpture/Architecture," site-specific outdoor sculptures, through Jan. 27. 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-885-1300, american.edu/katzen.

**Keck Center:** "The Last Iceberg," Camille Seaman's photographs of the disappearing icebergs, through Feb. 26. 500 5th St. NW; 202-334-2436, nas.edu.

**League of Reston Artists:** "ArtDe-Fined," artists take on their own studios as inspiration, through Jan. 4; 12006 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston; 703-200-2620, leagueofrestonartists.org.

**LAST CHANCE Marsha Mateyka Gallery:** "William T. Wiley," a solo exhibition of acrylic work, through Sat. 2010 R St. NW; 202-328-0088, marshamateykagallery.com.

**Mexican Cultural Institute:** "Migration: La Diaspora," explores reasons for mass migration, through Jan. 31. 2829 16th St. NW; 202-728-1875.

**Meridian International Center:** "Life at the Edge: The Big Thaw," photographs showing the effects of global warming, through Jan. 20. 1624 Crescent Place NW; 202-939-5568, meridian.org.

**National Air and Space Museum:**

"Treasures of American History," many of the National Museum of American History's choicest items — from Dorothy's ruby slippers to Jacqueline Kennedy's inaugural ball gown — find a temporary home, ongoing. "America By Air," the history of passenger air travel in the U.S., ongoing. 6th Street & Independence Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, nasm.si.edu.

**National Archives:** "School House to White House," a family-friendly collection of photos and documents from the childhoods of U.S. presidents, through Jan. 1, 2008. "The Charters of Freedom," "A New World Is at Hand," "The Public Vaults," the Magna Carta and other treasures, ongoing. Constitution Avenue between 7th & 9th streets NW; 202-357-5300, archives.gov.

**National Building Museum:** "Lasting Foundations: The Art of Architecture in Africa," a survey of African architecture through the ages, through Jan. 20. "David Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture," playful and precise drawings of architecture and engineering, through Jan. 21. "Marcel Breuer: Design and Architecture," explores houses, shapes and volumes, through Feb. 17. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, nbm.org.

**National Gallery of Art:** "The Art of the American Snapshot, 1888-1978: From the Collection of Robert E. Jackson" chron-

*Continued on E22*



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DECEMBER 20-JANUARY 2

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Led by the Assistant Principal Bassoon of the NSO, the ensemble explores the variety of repertoire for woodwinds. ■

**21 FRI ★ Junkyard Saints**  
New Orleans Christmas music. ■

**22 SAT ★ Gospel Celebration: Isaiah D. Thomas / Elements of Praise**  
Singer Isaiah D. Thomas with a 17-member gospel choir and full band. ■

**23 SUN ★ Prelude**  
Straight-ahead and smooth jazz arrangements of holiday classics. ■

**SPECIAL NOON PERFORMANCE**  
**24 MON ★ Monumental Brass Quintet**  
Classical, Dixieland jazz, ragtime, and traditional holiday favorites. ■

**25 TUE ★ All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam**  
Millennium Stage tradition with host and vibraphonist Chuck Redd, pianist Robert Redd, drummer Lenny Robinson, trumpeter Tom Williams, bassist James King, and vocalist Delores Williams. ■

**26 WED ★ Billy McComiskey & Friends w/ Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance**  
Traditional Irish music. ■

**27 THU ★ Joan DeVee Dixon**  
Organist on the Kennedy Center's Filene organ. ■

**28 FRI & 29 SAT ★ Holiday Vaudeville**  
Cajun cellist, magician, and modern-Klezmer quartet perform a vaudeville show. ■

**30 SUN ★ Last Train Home**  
D.C. roots-rock band with original holiday tunes and interpretations of yuletide classics. ■

**31 MON ★ Sidney's Salon Orchestra of Washington**  
Chamber music and 19th-century Viennese waltzes. ■

**1 TUE ★ The Dick Morgan Quartet**  
Noted jazz pianist. ■

**2 WED ★ the everybodyfields**  
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# WeekendPass

## TheScene

Continued from E21

icles the evolution of the photograph through history, through Dec. 31. "J.M.W. Turner," the largest collection of works by the legendary landscape artist in the U.S. "Edward Hopper: An Introduction to the Exhibition," a comprehensive exhibition of Hopper's work, through Jan. 21. "Exceptional Baroque Woodcuts" fea-

through Jan. 8. "Journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," through Jan. 27. "Extreme Dinosaur," features fossils of the Nigersaurus, a gigantic flying reptile, through March 18. 17th & M streets NW; 202-857-7588.

**National Museum of African Art:** "Art of Being Tuareg: Sahara Nomads in a Modern World," features jewelry, clothing and leatherwork of the Tuareg people, through Jan. 27. "African Vision: The Walt Disney-Tishman African Art Collection," through Sept. 7, 2008. 950 Independence

## MUSEUM | FUNNY GIRL



COURTESY AMPAS

**SHE'S A LADY:** With "One Life: Katharine Hepburn," the National Portrait Gallery takes a fond look at an American icon. The notoriously levelheaded actress is showcased in ravishing photography, video clips of interviews and film snippets, and some precious possessions — her four Oscars.

tures work from European baroque artists, through March 30. "Five Decades of Robert Rauschenberg Prints" features lithographs, screen-prints and intaglios, through March 30. 600 Constitution Ave. NW; 202-289-3360, [nga.gov](http://nga.gov).

**National Geographic Museum:** "Journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," explore the Arctic through photographs and items from the 1956 Murie expedition through the Arctic, through Jan. 27. "Crittcercam: The World Through Animal Eyes," a video- and data-gathering tool worn by wild animals offers insights into animal behaviors,

Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, [nmafa.si.edu](http://nmafa.si.edu).

**National Museum of the American Indian:** "Identity by Design: Tradition, Change and Celebration in Native Women's Dresses," through Jan. 2. 4th Street & Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-6985, [nmai.si.edu](http://nmai.si.edu).

**National Museum of Health and Medicine:** "Estrogen Tales: The Untold Story of Nine Molecules ... and How They Bonded," find out the molecular makeup of the female hormone, ongoing. "Expression of Hope," works by artists suffering from lysosomal storage disorders, through March 3. 6900 Georgia Ave. NW,



**TheScene**

nmhm.washingtondc.museum.

**National Portrait Gallery:** "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits" through March 2; "Legacy: Spain and the United States in the Age of Independence, 1763-1848," portraits and original documents surrounding Spain and the Revolutionary War, through Feb. 10. "One Life: Katharine Hepburn," portraits and Hepburn's Oscars, through Oct. 5. "Portraiture Now: Framing Memory," portraits of iconic figures including Martin Luther King Jr., Frida Kahlo, Jacqueline Kennedy, Cesar Chavez and Josephine Baker, through Jan. 6. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, npg.si.edu.

**Nevin Kelly Gallery:** "Attainable Art," features works priced less than \$1,500 by fine local artists including Sondra Larkin, Laurel Hausler and Elyn Weiss, through Dec. 30. 1517 U St. NW; 202-232-3464, nevinkellygallery.com.

**The Phillips Collection:** "Contemporary Photographs from the Litchenberg Collection," through Jan. 6. "Impressionists by

**GALLERY | DANCING QUEENS**

COURTESY DCFI

**ROCK ON:** District Fine Arts has extended its exuberant group show "Hit Me With Music" into February. The exhibition brings together works by painters, sculptors and photographers, all cogitating on the theme of rock music and the things it makes people do. Not that we're implying anything about the young ladies in Leah Tinari's painting, above.

the Sea," a look at the movement's beachy works, through Jan. 13. 1600 21 St. NW; 202-387-2151, phillipscollection.org.

**Project 4 Gallery:** "Chasing Tales," artists explore the impact of myth and fantasy, through Jan. 19. 903 U St. NW; 202-232-4340, project4gallery.com.

**Randall Scott Gallery:** "Intervals," photography by Margot Quan Knights that explored the passage of time, through Jan. 19. 1326 14th St. NW; 202-332-0806, randallscottgallery.com.

**Renwick Gallery:** "Going West! Quilts and Community," quilts from the frontier, through Jan. 21. Pennsylvania Avenue & 17th Street NW; 202-633-1000.

**Smithsonian American Art Museum:** "Celebrating the Lucelia Artist Award, 2001-2006," features the work of artists who have won the award since 2000, through June 22; "Kindred Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape," through Jan. 6; "Over the Top: American Posters From World War I," inspirational posters in support of our boys over there, through Feb. 3. "John Alexander: A Retrospective," drawings and paintings since 1970, through March 16. 8th & F streets

Continued on E25

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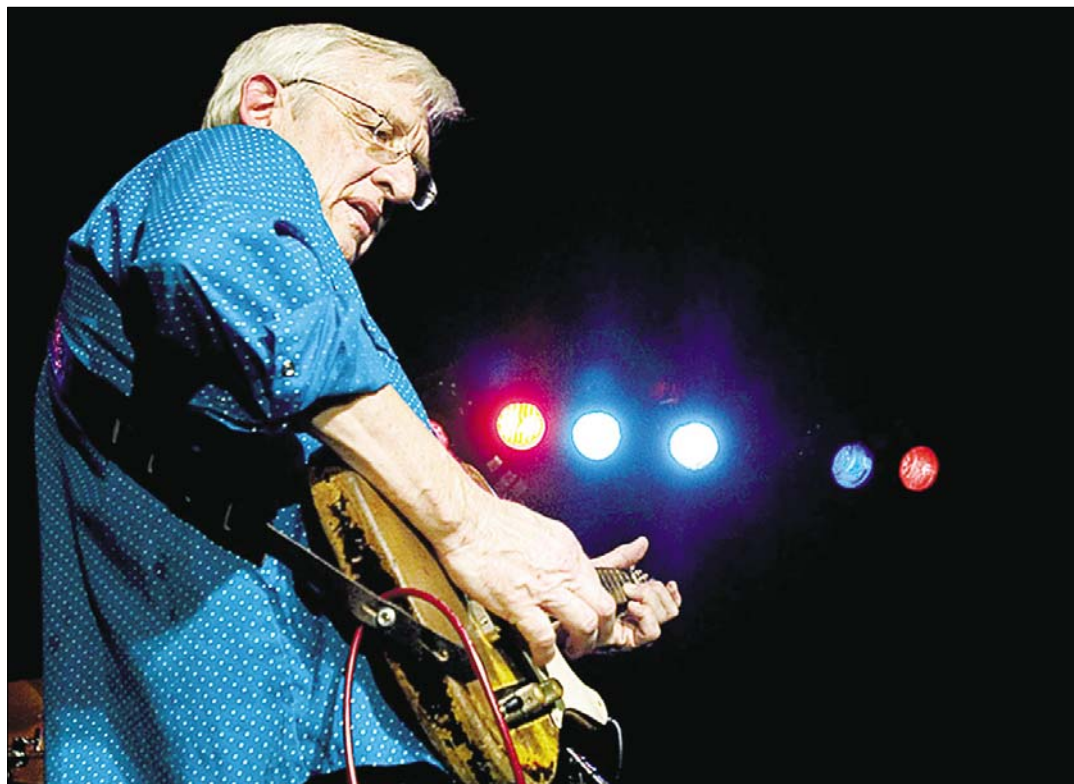
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# Entertainment **WeekendPass**

## AMERICANA | REAL GONE



JACOB BLICKENSTAFF

**GUITAR HERO:** Turns out there is such a thing as too much fun — well, such a thing as Too Much Fun, anyway. Bill Kirchen's band comes to Jammin' Java on Friday to unleash a veritable tsunami of sound — all of it rooted in great and venerable American traditions, all of it rocks like the Platonic ideal of a Saturday night — with more beer.

## TheScene

Continued from E23

NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu.

**LAST CHANCE Studio Gallery:** "Sizing Up," large and small works, through Sun. 2108 R St. NW; 202-232-8738, studiogallerydc.com.

**Target Gallery:** "Molded Earth," ceramics by local artists, through Jan. 20. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565, torpedofactory.org.

**The Textile Museum:** "Textiles of Klimt's Vienna," the artistic values of early 20th-century Austria, through Jan. 6. "Ahead of His Time: The Collecting Vision of George Hewitt Myers" explores the collection of the museum founder, through Jan. 6. "Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art," textiles of Washington collectors, through Feb. 17. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, textilmuseum.org.

**Touchstone Gallery:** "The Ubiquitous," Neal Hutchko paints music using acrylic, pencil, bleach and possibly some psychoactive assistance, through Jan. 5. 406 7th St. NW; 202-347-2787, touchstonegallery.com.

**Transformer:** "Wall/Paper," unframed paintings, prints, photos and drawings, through Jan. 19. 1404 P St. NW; 202-483-

Continued on E26

## GALLERY | URBAN LIVING



LAURIE BREEN

**ART NICHE:** Inspiring and unusual art is on display at the progressive gallery that calls itself Space 7:10 in the Kefa Cafe. "Two Silver Spring Artists" features works by Laurie Breen (that's her "City Block" above) and Kan-chan Balse through Jan. 4. 963 Bonifant Ave., Silver Spring; 301-589-9337.

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## WeekendPass

### GALLERY | SPACE AND TIME



**OPEN UP:** Belgian artist Arie Mandelbaum's dreamy, spare abstracts take center stage at Honfleur Gallery through Jan. 12. The paintings build up resonance as well as texture through the meticulous application of many layers. "Die Umwelt" is Mandelbaum's first exhibition in the United States.

### TheScene

Continued from E25

1102, [transformergallery.org](http://transformergallery.org).

**U.S. Botanic Gardens:** "A Midnight Clear," winter landscape displays for the holidays, through Jan. 6. "Glorious Winter," nature photography by Roger Foley and Barbara Southworth, through Jan. 6. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, [usb.gov](http://usb.gov).

**Washington Printmakers Gallery:** "Hanging in There," prints by Pauline Jakobsberg, through Dec. 30. 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-7757, [washingtonprintmakers.com](http://washingtonprintmakers.com).

**VSA Arts:** "Driven," an exhibition of lively, revealing work by emerging artists with disabilities, through Dec. 31. S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-628-2800, [vsarts.org](http://vsarts.org).

**Zenith Gallery:** "Low Country," works depicting South Carolina life, through Dec. 30. 413 7th St. NW; 202-783-2963, [zenithgallery.com](http://zenithgallery.com).

### Stage

**Antigone:** The Forum Theatre reimagines Sophocles' tragedy, through Dec. 30, \$18-\$20. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 800-494-8497, [forumtd.org](http://forumtd.org).

**Breath, Boom!:** A woman's journey off of the streets and into maturity, through Jan. 6, \$29. Studio Theatre, 1501 I4th St. NW; 202-232-3300, [studiotheatre.org](http://studiotheatre.org)

**Christmas Carol 1941:** Dickens' classic set in wartime D.C., through Dec. 30, \$59-\$74. Arena Stage, 1101 6th St. SW; 202-488-3300, [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org).

**Edward II:** Shakespeare Theatre Company takes on Marlowe's lurid play, through Jan. 6, \$23.50-\$79.75. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122, [shakespearetheatre.org](http://shakespearetheatre.org).

**Fiddler on the Roof:** The exuberant musical about love and family, through Jan. 6, \$25-\$46. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, [olneytheatre.org](http://olneytheatre.org).

**The House of Yes:** The story of a dysfunctional McLean family, through Jan.

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## TheScene

I3. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Crystal City; 703-418-4808, washingtonshakespeare.org.

**Kafka's Dick:** Alan Benet's acerbic play staged by Washington Shakespeare Company, through Jan. 13, \$25-\$35. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Crystal City; 703-418-4808, washingtonshakespeare.org.

**LAST CHANCE The Nutcracker:** The Washington Ballet, through Sun., \$30-\$90. Warner Theatre, 13th & E streets NW; 202-783-4000, warnertheatre.com.

**The Nutcracker:** The Maryland Youth Ballet, through Dec. 29, \$29.50 (\$25 in advance). Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville; 301-608-2232, montgomerycollege.edu/pac/.

**One-Man Star Wars Trilogy:** Charles Ross does his best Luke/Leia/Darth Vader/Yoda/etc. impression, through Dec. 30, \$28-\$32. Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW; 202-393-3939, woollymammoth.net

**LAST CHANCE The Santaland Diaries:** A sardonic take on the holidays, as presented by the Rep Stage, through Sun., \$17-\$25. Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia; 410-772-4900, repstage.org.

**The Second Shepherds' Play:** A medi-

### STAGE | EVERYBODY PLAYS THE FOOL



**SILLY SEASON:** Isaac Bashevis Singer probably covered his Nobel Prize with a sweater or something when he sat down to write "Shlemiel the First," the uproarious play based on tales of legendary silliness out of the fictional town of Chelm, in which everyone's the village idiot. The play becomes a musical with live klezmer at Theater J through Jan. 20.

eval mystery play with early music, through Dec. 30, \$40-\$48. Folger Consort, 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

**Shlemeil the First:** Fabulous folk tales from Isaac Bashevis Singer, through Jan. 20, \$15-\$50. Theater J, 1529 16th St. NW; 202-777-3210, theaterj.org.

**The Snow Child:** Julia Tasheva performs this children's wintery puppet show, through Jan. 6, \$15. Classika Theatre, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-824-6200, classika.org.

**Spamalot:** "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" in musical form, through Jan. 6, \$46.50-\$96.50. National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 800-447-7400, nationaltheatre.org.

**LAST CHANCE Spunk:** Three of Zora Neale Hurston's short stories adapted into one musical, through Sun., \$20. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-7993, atlasarts.org.

**Twice Upon a Time: Dr. Seuss' The Lorax and The Emperor's New Clothes:** New musical takes on old classics, through Jan. 13, \$10-\$20. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, imaginationstage.org.

**Workin' Overtime:** Washington Improv Theater shows what happens behind the scenes in shops around the holidays, through Dec. 29, \$5-\$12. Source Theater, 1835 14th St. NW; 202-315-1318, washingtonimprovtheatre.com.

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—Nelson Pressley, *The Washington Post*



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Sales Center on Rt.

### Watkin's Place in Largo

Luxury townhome-style condominiums  
2 level, 1-car garage from the low \$400's  
(800) 961-7318  
I-495 N. to Rte. 202 E. (Exit 214). Go 3 mi. to comm. on Left.

### ST. MARY'S COUNTY

#### Westbury in Lexington Park

Single family homes from the low \$300's  
(866) 463-0809  
I-295 S. to South Capitol St. SW exit & stay straight.  
Left onto Suitland Pkwy. SE to MD-5/Branch Ave. S. to  
Waldorf. Left onto MD-5 S. (St. Mary's County-Lexington  
Park). Left onto Leonardtown Rd. MD-5 S. becomes  
MD-235/Three Knotch Rd. Rt. onto Pegg Rd. to Rt.  
onto Westbury Blvd. W.

**All Sales Centers Open**  
**Monday 2pm - 5pm,**  
**Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm.**  
**Brokers Welcome.**

Community details at [www.Ryland.com](http://www.Ryland.com)

# RYLAND HOMES®

Sales by the Ryland Group, Inc.,  
(703) 502-5200

\*Offer available for specific inventory homes funded by Ryland Mortgage Company and closed with Ryland Title. Closing costs payable by Ryland include all customary buyer closing costs but excludes any prepaids. Ryland Mortgage is licensed by the Virginia Corporate Commission (license # MLB 130) and in Maryland (license # 3553827, 3553828 & 3552826) as a Mortgage lender. Other restrictions may apply. See Sales Counselor for details. Equal Housing Opportunity.

